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Latin America

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Regional Organizations React to Panama Situation

OAS Permanent Council To Meet

PA1205180889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1728 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Washington, 12 May (EFE)—The OAS Permanent Council unanimously approved today a call to hold a consultation meeting of regional foreign ministers to "discuss the serious crisis in Panama within an international context" in Washington on 17 May.

The draft resolution was presented by the Venezuelan mission and quickly accepted by the delegations accredited to the OAS. The Panamanian delegation agreed to the special foreign ministers meeting as long as the Panamanian problem is discussed within a general context. The special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council, which includes all the ambassadors accredited to the OAS, was requested yesterday.

SELA Wants Nonintervention

PA1305033689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 12 May (EFE)—Latin American Economic System (SELA) Permanent Secretary Carlos Perez del Castillo today commented on the situation in Panama and said that SELA confirms its belief in the principle of nonintervention in that Central American nation.

Uruguayan Perez del Castillo today met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and briefed him on the work the organization is carrying out, particularly on matters related to the Latin American foreign debt.

Perez del Castillo recalled that in March 1988, SELA stated its position on Panama and expressed its support for the principle of the peoples' self-determination, the need to strictly fulfill the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and the need to put an end to U.S. intervention in Panama. On that occasion, SELA also expressed its hope that Panama will fulfill its commitment to strengthen its democratic system.

Concerning the foreign debt problem, SELA's permanent secretary noted that the Treasury and Finance Ministries as well as the central banks of the SELA member states are analyzing all the documents that have been submitted on this subject. SELA is an organization for regional cooperation and economic integration headquartered in Caracas and comprising 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Parliament Defends Sovereignty

PY1605034989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0203 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Lima, 15 May (EFE)—The Latin American Parliament today said that the defense of the principles of popular and national sovereignty is in Latin America's basic interest in the current political crisis that Panama is experiencing. In a communique released in Lima, where the General Secretariat of the Latin American Parliament—which includes congressmen from several Latin American countries—is headquartered, both principles are described as "essential and complementary."

The Latin American Parliament points out that Panamanian popular sovereignty requires "clean and truthful expression" through free elections. It considers that popular sovereignty was "frustrated" in the elections in Panama on 7 May, elections that were anulled by the electoral court 3 days later.

The communique notes that the absence of an independent press and of timely reports, as well as the presence of other irregularities, raised doubts about the true outcome of the elections. The communique also points out that the attack on opposition representatives last Wednesday during a rally by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) involved "a disregard" for basic human rights. The Latin American Parliament communique states that the annulment of the elections "eliminates the prospects" for democratization in Panama.

Regarding Panama's national sovereignty, the communique says that it "has reportedly been jeopardized" by remarks made in the United States, proposing armed intervention in Panama, which is being rejected by the Latin American Parliament.

In its communique, the Latin American Parliament warns that, although those proposals have been disavowed, "a foreign interference in Panama's domestic affairs would be at odds with the basic principles of international and hemispheric coexistence and would aggravate the situation to unpredictable levels."

The communique considers that the "Group of Eight" (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Panama, which was excluded a year ago for its domestic situation) is entitled to take "urgent initiatives that will ensure the Latin American presence in order to support democracy, independence, and peace in Panama."

The communique says that the Latin American Parliament reiterates its "fraternal solidarity" with the Panamanian people and with its legitimate aspiration that the treaties signed in 1977 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian President Omar Torrijos, establishing that the canal will be transferred into Panamanian hands in the year 2000, will be fully implemented.

The communique released by the Latin American Parliament, which sent observers to the Panamanian elections, is signed by its president, Colombian Senator Humberto Pelaez, and by its secretary general, Peruvian Senator Andres Townsend.

Cuba

More Reports on U.S. Troop Arrival in Panama

FL1505121789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] In the last few hours, the United States has continued to send troops from its bases in U.S. territory to the Howard military airport, located 5 km from the Panamanian capital in the canal area. According to sources close to the Southern Command, which is responsible for the U.S. Armed Forces in the canal zone, over 60 141-huge cargo planes have arrived in the Panamanian territory up to now. The order to transfer those troops—some 1,900—was given by President George Bush.

On another matter, while the isthmian population goes on with its normal activities, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance called for a 24-hour general strike for this Wednesday [17 May]. This is when the OAS member countries' foreign ministers will meet in Washington.

Differences Between Businessmen, ADOC Noted

FL1505180189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by correspondent Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City—recorded]

[Text] The differences of views on actions to take in the future among the core of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] were made evident once again this Sunday [14 May].

After a call was made for a general strike on Wednesday [17 May] and a national day of protest, coinciding with the OAS meeting that will discuss Panama, Arias Calderon, the second in command of the ADOC and top leader of the Christian Democratic Party, clarified last night that it is not a work stoppage or a strike but that the activities of all the citizens will come to a standstill. Let's listen.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] It not a citizens stoppage. We say that the activities of the citizens will come to a standstill to make clear that it is not a business stoppage or a workers' strike in the technical sense. It is a way to protest peacefully the annulment of the elections and to demand that their vote be respected. [end recording]

For many observers, this evident contradiction between the announcement made in the morning and the clarification made in the evening, shows the problems that exist between Panamanian businessmen and opposition sectors.

U.S. Ambassador Davis Leaves Panama for Home

FL1605010089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 89

[Report by correspondent Nelson Notario Castro from Panama City—recorded]

[Text] Today, the U.S. ambassador to Panama, Arthur Davis, left for his country on the orders of President George Bush. Davis said that he will not return to Panama until the country has, what he defined as, a legitimate government.

Mr Davis, who on various occasions has been denounced by the Panamanian authorities for hindering bilateral relations between the United States and Panama, made a call on Channel 8 of U.S. television, which is broadcast from the Yankee bases in the canal zone, to the Organization of American States asking them to recognize the victory of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance at Wednesday's meeting.

This afternoon, at Panama City's Atlantic-Pacific Convention Center, representatives of various workers' unions met to reach the common attitude that the opposition plans to display next Wednesday [17 May].

Honduran National Congress Secretary on Panama

FL1305013489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] A delegation of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras is visiting our country. It was received by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, who talked to the visitors about our electoral system and other matters related to the economic, political, and social development of Cuba.

Deputy Manuel Zelaya, secretary of the Honduran National Congress, said this visit helps to promote greater integration between the Latin American peoples. Zelaya expressed his opinion on the current Panamanian situation.

[Begin Zelaya recording] We do not wish any country to experience the internal situation Panama is experiencing. In addition, we also regret the terrible insinuations from the part of some countries in the continent that have exerted pressures over the Panamanian people such as armed pressures and pressures by pre-judging its electoral system. The countries that maintain the principle that each nation should have the government it deserves and wants and that the people have the right to choose their own path and the respect of the self-determination of these decisions make the entire world regret what is happening to the Panamanian people and Government at this time [as heard]. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Arrives in Zimbabwe

FL1305180689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Today in Harare, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca stressed the importance of respecting the tripartite agreements on Southwest Africa. He also noted that the United Nations should guarantee Namibia's independence.

The foreign minister arrived at the Zimbabwean capital to attend the ministerial meeting of the non aligned countries. This meeting will be held in Harare next week and precedes the ninth summit of the Nonaligned Movement which will take place in Belgrade next September.

Yesterday, the sixth meeting of the coordination committee for the action program on economic cooperation between the nonaligned countries ended in Harare. At this meeting, an agreement for cooperation in various areas was approved.

Panama Opposes Venezuela's Nonaligned Membership

FL1505185289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Panama's formal opposition for Venezuela to join the Nonaligned Movement was the most outstanding feature of the first session of the experts meeting that began in Harare, Zimbabwe today. The Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations said, on behalf of his delegation, that Venezuela meddled in the isthmian domestic affairs and it was proved that it conspired against Panamanian institutions.

According to diplomatic sources, Venezuela's membership had been unanimously supported by the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau meeting held in New York. Now, this objection raised by Panama will be taken to the ministerial conference. However, experts present at the Harare meeting did not rule out the possibility that Panamanian-Venezuelan differences be submitted to the chiefs of state summit meeting to be held in Yugoslavia next September.

Venezuela's wishes to join the Nonaligned Movement were blocked previously by Guyana for several years. Venezuela and Guyana had a dispute, which has already been settled, on the Essequibo border area.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira told the press that his country condemns U.S. interference in any Latin American nation and stressed there is no reason for U.S. intervention in Panama. The United States does not have the right to decide what has been done well or badly in Latin American countries and we do not want interventions, insisted Shamuyarira.

Those attending the Nonaligned Movement experts meeting beginning in Harare today are preparing the work agenda for the foreign ministers conference of the 101 countries that are members of the movement and are reviewing several drafts to be approved by the foreign ministers. The conference will begin in the Zimbabwean capital next Wednesday [17 May]. Among the problems to discuss are those related to the Palestinian people and Namibia's independence.

Angola Notes Clashes Between UNITA, FAPLA

FL1205133389 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] During the past week, 78 men from UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] were killed while 3 were captured in 3 Angolan provinces.

An Angolan military report states that during the armed clashes, 7 FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] men were killed while 15 were wounded.

South Africa Illegally Occupies Namibia 74 Years

FL1205190589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Today is the 74th anniversary of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. Pretoria continues to remain in that country despite international protests and the recently signed agreements.

Presently, all members of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, are in Angola, north of the 16th parallel, and Cuba is complying with the withdrawal of its internationalist troops. Nevertheless, our editorial desk constantly receives cables denouncing the repression and intimidation activities practiced in Namibia by the South African racists. These deeds forced the United Nations to increase the number of troops they have in Namibia by 500 men. The UN troops are in Namibia to ensure that UN Security Council Resolution 435 is properly carried out.

SWAPO saluted this decision because it will better enable the authorities to control the situation in Namibia and help put an end to the 74 years of occupation.

33,000 Namibian Refugees To Be Repatriated

FL1305142689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Almost 33,000 Namibian refugees in Angola and Zimbabwe have registered at the UN representation areas to be repatriated to their country as of 15 May, said a report from Harare, Zimbabwe.

It was also said that (Nicholas Bacuira), chief of the UN Commission for Refugees in Namibia, declared that the repatriation activities should be preceeded by a general amnesty declaration and the elimination of discriminatory and restrictive laws which are still in effect in Namibia.

Joint Committee Meeting Begins in Namibia

FL1505203989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1947 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Today, the Joint Angola, Cuba, South Africa Commission that is studying the tripartite agreements on Southwest Africa initiated a meeting in Ruacana, Namibia for an extraordinary meeting.

Cuba, Angola, and South Africa will give reports on the verification process of SWAPO's withdrawal from Namibia into Angola, past the 16th parallel. This process ended 13 May.

The meeting will also examine moving South African troops to their bases which will return the situation to how it was in Namibia prior to the clashes which began on 1 April.

Angolan radio announced today that the meeting has a decisive importance because its results will determine the reimplementation of UN Resolution for Namibia's independence. This process was interrupted by the clashes in the north of that country.

Commentary on Guatemalan Coup Attempt

PA1305031189 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 89

["Our America" commentary by Horacio Gibeola]

[Text] The latest coup attempt against Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo is not an isolated event. It shows the Christian Democratic government's precariousness. Unable to make good its lukewarm election promises, this government has taken a completely defensive policy. Harassed by attempted coups, government corruption, administrative ineptness, and insurgent activities, Cerezo's administration is plagued by evident instability. His government is still hostage to the military High Command, which temporarily surrendered power after many years of dictatorship.

Nevertheless, Cerezo is the victim of military men who have been kept away from positions of greater power by their fellow officers. This seems to have been the cause of the most recent plot against the civilian government. This plot, masterminded by Air Force officers, was crushed by officers who decided to support the president for the time being.

Guatemala, 85 percent of whose population lives in poverty, is plagued by paramilitary groups that spread panic, particularly among the peasant and Indian population, in collusion with the powerful and well-armed Army. Another sign of the government's increasing weakness is that important decisions are made by the military High Command, which dominates key economic sectors.

Cerezo's power was threatened a few days ago by the disclosure that Guatemalan forces for a long time had been staging joint counterinsurgency operations with U.S. soldiers. This participation casts doubts on Cerezo's alleged active neutrality in Central America and turns Guatemala into just another springboard for the deployment of U.S. forces as part of the so-called low-intensity war. According to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, war exercises are staged in Guatemala with troops from the U.S. bases in the Panama Canal area. On 31 January, a U.S. pilot flying a U.S. plane was killed when he tried to land at the Guatemala City Air Force Base. The rebels asserted the plane was hit by antiaircraft fire. In addition, U.S. troops were deployed in Guatemala's Chimaltenango Department in November 1988.

Shortly after the murder of 22 peasants last February, the guerrillas noticed flights near the scene of the massacre by U.S. Air Force Chinook helicopters that participated in counterinsurgency operations or in missions to support the Guatemalan Army.

The most recent coup attempt in Guatemala and the discovery of an increasing presence of U.S. troops in that country has placed Cerezo's government in a serious, difficult position. Cerezo seems to be forced to obey a society made up of people much more powerful than he is.

Syrian Delegation Arrives at Jose Marti Airport

FL1205183789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] A delegation of the Syria-Cuba Friendship Association arrived in Havana early this morning. The delegation is in Cuba to strengthen bilateral relations.

The delegation is integrated by Rashid Ictarini, president of the Syria-Cuba Friendship Association, Marwan Dari, secretary of the organization, and Safid Abudan, member of the Arab-Syrian Directorate of the B'ath Party.

They were received at the Jose Marti International Airport by Dr Alvarez Cambras, vice president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, and Reinaldo Gonzalez, vice president of the Cuban Friendship with the Peoples Institute [ICAP].

The Syrian delegation will visit production and social centers in Havana and Santiago de Cuba. During their stay in Cuba, the Syrian representatives will sign an agreement with our country.

Special Soviet Envoys Meet With Risquet

FL1505125789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, has received in our capital two special envoys from the Soviet Government. Yuriy Pavlov, chief of the

Foreign Ministry's Latin American Directorate, [title as heard] and Georgiy Memedov, first deputy chief of the United States and Canada Directorate.

They traveled to our country to report on the results of the talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his U.S. counterpart James Baker held in Moscow recently. They also dealt with the meeting between the chief of the U.S. diplomacy and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU. The special envoys referred to the exchanges on regional conflicts, especially on the situation in Central America.

300-Member Contingent To Work in Armenia

FL1505130689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Cuban contingent that will work in the Soviet Republic of Armenia was formed a few hours ago. Pedro Ross [Leal], secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, said, when he made the announcement, that the collective is composed of 300 workers.

Risquet Receives U.S. Communist Party Leaders

FL1505145989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1526 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has received Arnold Bechetti and Maurice Jackson, member and alternate member, respectively, of the U.S. Communist Party. During the fraternal meeting, the visitors praised the rectification process being carried out in our country and noted our socioeconomic progress.

Vo Nguyen Giap in Country for Cooperation Talks

BK1405153789 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 14—General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and head of the Vietnamese section to the Vietnam-Cuba Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, arrived in Havana yesterday to attend the 11th session of the commission.

Vice-chairman Vo Nguyen Giap was welcomed at the airport by among others, Rose Elena Simeon, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences; Mario Travieso, vice-chairman of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation and deputy head of the Cuban section to the Intergovernmental Commission; and Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Armando Saucedo Yero.

Delegation To Sign Protocol

FL1505205689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1948 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The 11th session of the Cuba-Vietnam intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific cooperation has begun in Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel. Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, is heading the high-level Vietnamese delegation while the Cuban part is being represented by Antonio Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee.

During the talks, which will end next Friday [19 May] with the signing of a protocol, the delegations will study agreements already signed in the fields of sugar, agriculture, cattle production, public health, communications, light industry, basic industry, and fishing.

Cuba and Vietnam foresee the elevation of quality and efficiency in cooperation, as well as perfecting and improving mechanisms that will ably permit us to fulfill the commitments agreed upon in this meeting.

Ecuadoran Artisan Sends Castro Hand-Made Rug

FL1505211889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Tingo, a well-known and able Ecuadoran artisan, has given Antonio Nunez Jimenez a beautiful hand-woven rug which is for Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

In a simple ceremony held at the house of Ecuadoran painter Oswaldo Guayasamil, Tingo said it was a gift from one people's man to another. The able Ecuadoran artisan said that he had hoped to personally give it to Castro last August when Castro was in Quito for the presidential inauguration ceremony. However, he said that the complexity of the work did not permit him to finish it on time.

The design of the beautiful rug given to Fidel, which is 5 meters long by 4 meters wide, consists of symbols from the ancient Latin American cultures.

Nunez Jimenez is heading a delegation which will present a cultural exhibit in Ecuador.

Caricom

Community Supports Belize in Guatemalan Dispute

FL1105182289 Bridgetown CANA in English 1215 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 10, CANA—Caribbean Community [Caricom] foreign ministers have reaffirmed support for Belize in its territorial dispute with Guatemala. "For us the highlight of the meeting was Caricom's reiteration of its willingness to act as a kind of bulwark on the diplomatic front against Guatemalan pretensions," said Belize's Foreign Minister Dean Barrow. Guatemala has a long-standing claim to part of Belize and at one stage it threatened to invade the former British colony. The two sides have reported no progress in talks on the dispute.

Barrow said his government was "absolutely satisfied" with the outcome of discussions here on the dispute as there has been some suggestion that Guatemala was seeking to effect some kind of lessening of Caricom resolve over Belize. "Some thought there would be some kind of crack in Caricom solidarity", he noted. Barrow said that his government had received several assurances during the course of the two-day meeting that ended yesterday from individual Caricom ministers that there is no question of any weakening of Caricom resolve over Belize.

The communique to be issued here Wednesday [10 May] reflects Caricom's concern that the negotiations taking place between Belize and Guatemala had not yet reached a conclusion which is satisfactory to Belize, and therefore to Caricom. It said that the ministers hoped for an early settlement and called on Guatemala to accept without delay respect and sanctity for the Central American states existing constitutional borders.

"We are very pleased that Caricom continues to say that so long as the Republic of Guatemala refuses to recognise Belize's sovereignty, Caricom will proceed with its absolute determination not to engage in the establishment of diplomatic representation with Guatemala or any other form of official collaboration," Barrow said. He said his government had pointed out to the Caricom foreign ministers that while the negotiations are proceeding they have not made the kind of progress Belize would like to make. "We attribute this to Guatemala's unwillingness to make the sorts of compromises that Belize has to insist on if its national interest and sovereignty are to be protected," he added.

Meanwhile, on the Guyana-Venezuela border dispute, the meeting noted that relations between Guyana and Venezuela were "very positive" at present. The ministers thought there weas a process in place which could eventually lead to an amicable solution to the territorial problem. "There was no request before the meeting that anything was needed to be done the process along," Barrow said. The communique noted that the two territories were engaged in the development if new programmes of functional cooperation, and this had manifested itself in an increase in exchanges between the leaders.

The foreign ministers noted with satisfaction that the Protocol of Cartegena amending the OAS Charter had received the necessary retifications, and it was now possible for Guyana and Belize to become members of the hemispheric organisation in 1990. Previously, countries with territorial disputes with OAS members were barred from joining the organisation. Given the financial and administrative crisis in the OAS, the meeting called on all member states in arrears to settle their contributions to the regular and voluntary funds.

Barrow said the foreign ministers expressed the hope that nothing should be done in the Americas to jeopardize the peace process. "We thought that it would be necessary however to examine for ourselves whatever evidence emerges out of Panama as to the way the elections proceeded before issuing a statement," Barrow said. The United States and independent pollsters have accused the Panama Government of stealing the election.

Caricom Declines To Discuss Unrest in Guyana

FL1205142589 Bridgetown CANA in English
1500 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] St Lucia, May 11, CANA—The Belize foreign minister says Caribbean Community [Caricom] foreign ministers did not discuss industrial unrest in Guyana at their just-ended meeting here. Dean Barrow told CANA before leaving here at the end of the two-day meeting the situation in Guyana was distinctly not on the agenda, "so that there was no discussion of any sort."

"I suppose if anyone had attempted to raise it, the Guyanese might have legitimately complained that this would have amounted to interference in their internal affairs," Barrow said.

A number of opposition parties in the South American Republic and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana, have called for a special Caricom heads meeting as part of their protest against the government's International Monetary Fund-linked economic measures.

Barrow admitted that he personally knew nothing about the call for the summit, adding that in the absense of any real knowledge about this he would have to be sympathetic with what he believed would be the official Guyanese line. "We in Belize are a little bit cut off from the rest of the Caribbean so that I am not especially knowledgeable with the call being issued," he added. "Therefore I am not in a position to comment in any expanded way on this issue. I would need to look at the facts and consult with colleagues in Guyana before venturing to hazard any comment," Barrow remarked.

Several foreign ministers who attended the 15th meeting here declined to comment on the situation in Guyana, some saying they were unaware of the call for a summit while others said that the matter was not before the meeting and they were not prepared to discuss it.

Workers are on strike in Guyana's bauxite and sugar sectors protesting governments currency devaluation in March and ensuing price increases.

'Text' of Foreign Minister Communique

FL1205143089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1057 GMT 11 May 89

["Text" of communique issued by the Caribbean Community foreign ministers in Castries, St Lucia on 10 May]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 11, CANA—Following is the communique issued by Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign ministers after talks in St Lucia:

The Standing Committee of Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs (SCMFA) of the Caribbean Community held its fifteenth preparatory meeting of officials on 4-5 May 1989. The meeting was attended by eleven of the twelve member states comprising the membership of the Standing Committee.

The heads of delegations were: Hon Hugh Marshall, minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda; Hon E Charles Carter, minister of foreign affairs, the Bahamas; Hon Maurice King, minister of foreign affairs, Barbados; Hon Dean Barrow, minister of foreign affairs, Belize; H.E. Mr Franklin Baron, ambassador to the United Nations and high commissioner to the United Kingdom for Dominica; Ben Jones, deputy prime minister and minister of external affairs, Grenada; Cde Rashleigh Jackson, minister of foreign affairs, Guyana; David Coore, minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, Jamaica, H.E. William V. Herbert, ambassador extraodinary and plenipotentiary of St Kitts and Nevis; Hon E. Neville Cenac, minister of foreign affairs, Saint Lucia; Sen the Hon Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, minister of external affairs and international trade, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Roderick Rainford, secretary-general of the Caribbean Community, declared the meeting open.

The meeting was addressed by Senator the Hon Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, minister of external affairs and international trade of Trinidad and Tobago as outgoing chairman of the Standing Committee. The Hon Neville Cenas, minister of foreign affairs, Saint Lucia, delivered the inaugural address. Minister Cenac in welcoming delegates to St Lucia pointed to that the fifteenth meeting could not have been held at a more opportune time or at a more challenging conjuncture in international affairs.

The minister added: "These changes in the world require changes in our diplomacy, changes in the way we approach our international affairs. Of course, they are changes that we welcome and should seek to encourage in whatever way we can, as it is imperative for the economic development of the Third World that peace and cooperation exist in the world at large".

The Hon E. Charles, minister of foreign affairs of the Bahamas, replied on behalf of visiting delegations.

The Hon Neville Cenac was elected chairman of the meeting and the new chairman in office of the Standing Committee.

Changing International Environment

The ministers observed that the meeting of the Standing Committee was taking place against the backstop of a perceptible pattern of change in global inter-relationships. The mosaic of change was characterised by, among other factors, diffuseness of the centres of economic power, an evolution in the global trend toward the formation and strengthening of large economic groupings and markets and the emergence of new trends regarding issues of universal concern such as the protection of the environment and drug trafficking and abuse.

The ministers also noted a growing spirit of accommodation and flexibility in the approach to solutions to regional problems which, in turn, was creating a more helpful climate for enchancing the role of the United Nations and a relaxation of tension between the superpowers.

The ministers considered that these factors, among others, together created challenges, as well as opportunites for small states, such as those of Caricom and resolved to identify their cooperation in order to identify ways in which Caricom states could best adapt to the changing situation so as to maintain and promote their interests, both individually and collectively.

With regard to the changing relations between the superpowers, the ministers expresed the hope that this relaxation of tension between them would be translated into additional disarmament measures thereby leading to reduced levels of tension and insecurity in the world and strengthening to changes for peace.

While recognising the primary role of the superpower in the global disarmament effort, particularly where nuclear weapons were concerned, they nevertheless urged that these powers make greater use of the negotiation mechanisms provided within the United Nations in keeping with the state which all humankind has in the achievement of disarmament. They also expressed their hope that the funds liberated from such disarmament measures would be channelled into developement cooperation for the benefit of developing countires.

Central America

The ministers noted with satisfaction that the recent tendency in international relations towards the greater use of diplomacy and negotiations in the solution of inter-state problems was becoming increasingly manifest in Central America. They called for maximum international support for, and cooperation with, the efforts of the states of Central America, to find solutions to the problems of the sub-region. They stressed that these solutions must be consistent with the right of the peoples of those states to full respect for their sovereignty and independence and to live free for external interference in their internal affairs.

Southern Africa

The ministers noted the developments leading up to the current decolonization process in Namibia, and commended those Caricom states, namely, Barbados and Jamaica, which had contributed to the United Nations Transistion Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. The ministers hoped that the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa would be brought to a swift end, and that the provisions of UN Resolution 435 would be scrupulously implemented. They noted the current state of the struggle against apartheid within South Africa and condemned the attempts by the South African regime to achieve political change without enfranchising the majority.

The ministers urged those states which had so far failed to implement comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, to do so with urgency. The ministers reaffirmed the solidarity of the governments and peoples of the Caricom states with the Frontline States and reiterated their support for the struggles of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

The Middle East

The ministers noted with much concern the continuous maiming and loss of life characterising the situation in the occupied territories, and expressed regret that the fulfillment of Palestinian national aspirations continued to be frustrated. They viewed these developments as underscoring the centrality of the Palestine question to the Middle East crisis and called for urgent steps to be taken for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, as called for by the United Nations.

They reiterated their firm belief that a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be achieved within the framework of a recognition of the right of Palestinians to a homeland, Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and the acceptance of the right of all states in the region, including Israel, to live in peace within recognised and secure borders. In that light they considered recent statements by the Palestine National Council to be a positive contribution to the peace process.

Haiti

The Standing Committee reaffirmed its solidarity with the Haitian people in their struggle for democracy, economic and social justice, and respect for human rights and human dignity. The committee expressed the hope that the democratic process would be resumed with the full restoration of the agreed Constitution and the holding of free and fair elections in Haiti in the near future.

The ministers agreed that the community should continue to engage in examination of its relations with Haiti with a view to devising appropriate forms of support for the Haitian people in their guest for democratic rights and social and economic justice.

Belize/Guatemala

The Standing Committee reiterated its total commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize.

The ministers supported the continuing negotiations between Belize and Guatemala, but regretted that these negotiations had not yet produced a settlement of the problem. They hoped for an early agreement. They called on Guatemala to accept without delay (and) respect the sanctity of her existing consitutional borders.

Guyana/Venezuela

The ministers noted with satisfaction that the relations between Guyana and Venezuela continued to intensify through the deepening of existing programmes, and the development of new progammes of functional cooperation. They noted also that this intensification had manifested itself in an increase in exchanges between the two presidents and at various other levels in the public as well as the private sector.

They were heartened by the demonstrated intention of both Guyana and Venezuela to continue to strengthen the process of dialogue and cooperation. With regard to the controversy between the two countries, the ministers welcomed the recent reaffirmation made by Guyana and Venezuela of their determination to cooperate fully with the secretary-general of the United Nations in the mandate given to him by Article IV (2) of the Geneva agreement.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The ministers acknowledged the growing recognition, on both sides, of the value of closer relations between the Caribbean and Latin America. They reaffirmed the community's determination to work for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Nassau understanding through practical, mutually beneficial programmes of cooperation.

In this regard, ministers emphasised the need for a strong, effective and supportive Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and called upon the current chairman of CDCC to work with ECLAC [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean] and member states, through the most effective channels, to ensure the implementation of the recommendations on the role and functioning of CDCC.

They expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations with a number of individual countries in the Caribbean including Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles, and with Latin American countries, such as Brazil and Venezuela.

The Organisation of American States

The ministers noted, with satisfaction, that the Protocol of Cartagena amending the OAS Charter had now received the necessary number of ratifications and had entered into force thus making it possible for Guyana and Belize to become members in 1990.

They expressed grave concern at the continuing financial and adminstrative crisis in the OAS which threatens to undermine the very purposes and principles of the amended charter of the organisation, and called on all member states in arrears to make good their contributions to the regular and voluntary funds.

The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the OAS as an instrument for peace and security, the preservation of democracy and respect for human rights, cooperation against drug abuse and drug trafficking, and programmes of technical cooperation among the countries of the Americas.

International Economic Issues

The SCMFA noted, with continued concern, the present decline in net resource flows to the developing countries, in spite of the recognition of the developed world that these flows are a sine qua non for development, especially that of the indebted developing countries.

The Standing Committee reviewed the proposals for debt relief put forward recently by Secretary Brady of the United States. The ministers recognised the central role of debt reduction in an effective debt relief strategy which called upon commercial banks to adopt a more positive approach to the provision of financial support to debtor countries and on the IMF and the World Bank to give direct support for debt and debt service reduction transactions. The ministers regarded these proposals as a turn in the right direction.

The Standing Committee pointed out that Caribbean Community member states, as small middle income countries for whom the debt burden is in many ways greater than that of the larger countries, look forward to the development of such proposals in a way which includes them as beneficiaries.

Relations With the United States of America

The ministers expressed their satisfaction at the introduction in the United States Congress of the new Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act-CBI 11. They issued a separate statement on this matter.

Relations With the EEC

Having reviewed the status of the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific]/EEC negotiations for the successor convention to Lome III, the ministers recalled, with a feeling of achievement and appreciation, the spirit of adventure, collaboration and enterprise which went into the fashioning of the historic Lome I convention. They expressed the hope that the new convention would be inspired by the same attitudes of mutual support and innovation evident in Lome I while taking account of changing conditions in Europe and in the ACP countries.

Island Developing Countries

They welcomed the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report of the meeting of the group of experts on island developing countries which was held in Malta on 24-25 May 1988, and the United Nations secretary-general's report on the specific problems and special needs of island developing countries which was issued on 25 August 1988. They expressed the need to draw the attention of the international community to the two programmes of action for small developing countries, issued by the Caricom foreign ministers and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, respectively on 27 October and 14 October 1988.

Ministers noted the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 43/189 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries, and expressed satisfaction that it called for both the strengthening of UNCTAD capacity as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries, and for the secretary-general to convene a meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organisations to review the problems of island developing countries and propose approprate concrete action with respect to those countries.

They expressed appreciation to those donor states and specialised agencies of the United Nation's system that have responded positively to the special needs of island developing countries.

Drug Abuse and Trafficking

Ministers reaffirmed their grave concern over the continuing threats to regional states posed by powerful drug cartels which operate with blatant disregard for the sovereignty, integrity and legal norms of regional states.

Ministers called for a hemispheric meeting of heads of governments and top law enforcement officials to review regional drug policies, coordinate interdiction strategies and establish guidelines for appropriate regional anti-drug training centres. Ministers reinforced their support for regional efforts in preventative drug education and rehabilitation.

Ministers also noted the tendency towards the extra-territorial application of legal jurisdiction by states involved in the war against drugs. They noted that this threatened to undermine cooperation among friendly nations united in their determination to fight the drug scourge.

The Environment

The Standing Committee noted that the protection of the environment had been assuming a position of great importance on national, regional and international agendas. The meeting also noted the various regional and international initiatives afoot for the formulation of policies with regard to the environment, both in respect of the development of natural resources and of the need for preservation.

In this regard they took note of the recent declaration made by the heads of state of the member states of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation in Manaus [Brazil]. That declaration had under-scored the sovereign right of each country to freely manage its resources, bearing in mind the need for promoting the economic and social development of its people, as well as the need for the adequate conservation of the environment. In this connection they expressed the hope that the rights and interests of developing countries would always be given due consideration.

The ministers welcomed the convening of the first meeting of Caricom ministers responsible for the environment scheduled for the end of May and expressed the hope that this meeting would result in the formulation of a common and coordinated position for Caricom member states with regard to the management and protection of the environment of the region.

Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)

Ministers stressed the importance of the earliest possible formulation of a regional programme of cooperation for the management of their territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. To this end, they asked that priority attention be given to the implementation of the schedule of activities already proposed under the aegis of the community.

"Proposal for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court"

The ministers received with appreciation the background paper presented by Trinidad and Tobago on the establishment of an international criminal court. They noted that in addition to its consideration in other fora outside of Caricom, the proposal was introduced at the last conference of heads of government in Antigua and Barbuda in 1988 and that it was also considered by attorneys general as recently as last April in Port-of-Spain.

In the continuing pursuit of this initiative, the ministers agreed to examine the further information presented by Trinidad and Tobago and to submit their comments to the government of Trinidad and Tobago by way of preparation for the next conference of heads of government meeting where the proposal will be further discussed.

The ministers took note of the request by Trinidad and Tobago for support for this initiative and the desire that was expressed that it should become a Caricom initiative.

Date and Venue

The Standing Committee recalled its acceptance at its fourteenth meeting of the offer by the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines to host its sixteenth meeting and fixed as the date of that meeting. The meeting also received and accepted the kind offer of the Bahamas respectively to host the Caribbean Community Standing Committee's seventeenth meeting in 1991.

Caribbean Development Banks on Anguilla Economy

FL1105185989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2036 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The Valley, Anguilla, May 10, CANA—The Anguilla economy did well in 1988, with a good performance by tourism and agriculture, the Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] reported. In its just-released 1988 annual report, the bank said: "Preliminary estimates indicate that the economy of Anguilla grew by 8.2 per cent in 1988, compared with 11.7 per cent in 1987."

The bank said the major sectors "remained buoyant," but there were signs that the level of activity put considerable strain on the small size of the labour force.

The tourism sector again dominated economic activity. It's contribution to GDP was 23.4 per cent, compared with 16 per cent in 1987. Agriculture did well, with the fishing subsector recording strong growth and the production of corn, pigeon peas, sweet peppers, cabbage, tomatoes and onions increasing. Okra production was re-introduced in 1988 under a technical assistance programme with the Caribbean agricultural and rural development advisory and training services.

Total visitor arrivals, excluding day-trippers arriving at the port of Sandy Ground, were estimated at 65,080. Indications are that growth maintained the strong trend of the last few years. Between January and July 1988, stopover arrivals increased by 29.8 per cent when compared with arrivals during the corresponding period in 1987. Performance was boosted by a new ferry service between Anguilla and St Maarten and additional flights from Puerto Rico. The arrivals were again dominated by excursionists, though the market share fell from 70 per cent in 1987 to 59 per cent in 1988. The U.S. accounted for 66 per cent of visitor arrivals. Increases were also reported in the number of visitors from Canada and Western Europe which almost tripled largely as a result of good contact with European tour operators, reliability of LOAT [Leeward Island Air Transportation] service and the appreciation of European currencies against the dollar.

"Construction activity was vibrant in 1988," the bank reported. "The number of hotel rooms is estimated to have risen by 150 to 580. Residential construction was also strong, particularly with the increased use of mortgage available at the Anguilla Development Board, and aggressive attempts by at least one commercial bank to increase its mortgage lending." In addition, the public sector completed the terminal building at Wallblake Airport, and started construction of a new social security complex and a 36-room hospital. The pace of construction activity was demanded by a growing labour shortage which resulted in considerable lags in the implementation of both private and public sector projects.

The bank said the rapid growth of the tourism sector and the high degree of labour mobility support the evaluation that unemployment remained low and was largely voluntary. The unemployment rate was roughly estimated at 5 per cent in 1988, marginally higher than in 1987.

Consumer prices rose by 4.5 per cent during the 12 months ending November 1988, compared with 2.5 percent in the corresponding period of 1987. "The major contributors to the overall price increase were service, food and alcoholic beverages and tobacco," the bank noted. The price of household goods, transportation and rental rates decreased.

Central government's recurrent surplus fell from about 0.8 million dollars in 1987 to 0.7 million dollars in 1988. Recurrent expenditures rose by 29 per cent to 8.1 million dollars, partially reflecting a 20 per cent salary increase granted to civil servants for 2 years beginning January 1988. "The 20 per cent rise in revenue to 9.3 million dollars was due to rationalisation of the revenue collection procedures and sustained high level of economic activity," the bank explained. Commerical bank deposits rose by 5.7 per cent in 1988 to 43.9 million dollars between the end of December 1987 and the end of September 1988. Loans and advances increased by 4.5 per cent 17.8 million dollars during the same period.

The CDB said an estimated 90 percent of total loans was made to the private sector largely to finance consumer spending, real estae, housing construction, and tourist-related activites.

A slowdown in the pace of economic expansion is forecast for 1989. Construction is expected to decline following a number of major investment in 1988. Additionally, given emerging signs of a labour shortage, continued high rates of growth may expert inflationary pressures on the economy," [quotation marks as received]the CDB reported. Tourism will continue to play a dominant role, but the government will need to manage its development carefully to ensure that growth is consistent with maintaining the quality of the product and with the availability of labour.

"In relation to central government savings, further improvements cannot be sustained unless a concerted effort is made to slow down expenditure growth. This may also require the continuation of current efforts to strengthen the revenue collection machinery, and the identification of new sources of revenue," the CDB said in its 1988 report.

Haiti Agrees for Caricom Mission To Visit

FL1205213689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2057 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, May 12, CANA—Haiti's foreign minister, Serge Charles, has accepted a proposal by Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments for a Caricom fact-finding mission to visit the French-speaking state, St Lucia reported Friday.

The Caricom proposal was in response to an invitation by Haiti's foreign minister that a delegation from the community led by the chairman of the Standing Committee of Foreign Ministers, Neville Cenac of St Lucia, should go to Haiti to make a proper assessment of the situation there.

However, the committee of foreign ministers decided that instead of a delegation of foreign ministers, a non-ministerial advanced team will travel to Haiti to undertake a preparatory assessment of the feasibility of the proposed ministerial mission.

"The team will hold discussions with government authorities as well as leaders of various institutions and political parties in Haiti," said the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, Earl Hunteley. He said that, with the Haitian foreign minister agreeing to the Caricom proposal, it is expected that the Caricom advanced team will visit Port-au-Prince in the coming month as the findings of the group are to be submitted to the conference of the heads of government of Caricom to be held in early July.

The Caricom advanced team will be made of four to five eminent persons coming from a cross section of the Caribbean community and will include the resident ambassador for the Bahamas in Haiti.

Hunteley said that St Lucia welcomed Haiti's agreement to Caricom's approach to the matter.

"We hope that this marks the beginning of a process in which Caricom will play a positive role in the democratisation and development of Haiti," the Foreign Ministry official said.

Haiti wants to deepen relations with its English-speaking neighbours. There has been a mixed reaction to this, with some critics voicing concern about the government's human rights record.

Haiti

LAPPH Member Discusses Dismissal of Leader

FL1205175089 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 140, 10 May 89 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During a news conference held Tuesday 9 May 1989, Ernst Saint-Juste, one of the members of the League of Former Political Prisoners [LAPPH], stated that the decision to remove Robert Duval was reached following a general assembly held "in the yard" of the League's headquarters in Pacot [a section of Port-au-Prince]. [passage omitted]

In addition to his "indifference," League "President" Duval formed alliances with other political organizations without consulting the grass roots. "We are an organization for the defense of human rights and have members from all kinds of political currents. We are not a political party," Saint-Juste said.

Another "irregularity" pointed out: Duval's brother-in-law, Charles Vorbes, was admitted as an "active member" in violation of the LAAPH charter. This charter stipulates that "only former political prisoners may be active members." Others are either "honorary members" or "sympathizers."

According to the new, provisional, executive committee, on 19 April and 6 May 1989, "President" Duval refused to answer a questionnaire regarding the "irregularities" pointed out above.

The changing of the address of the League's headquarters seems to have fueled the fire, for the charter requires that the grass roots first be informed, they pointed out. "Everything was going well until the infiltration of Charles Vorbes, who gave Duval to understand that he is a political figure and that as such, he must stay in the office," Secretary General Pierre Kesler Paul said. [passage omitted]

The "irregularities" reportedly stirred the conscience of Vice President Claude Rozier well before it even bothered the committee. Rozier, in a letter to Robert Duval, had criticized the "decisions made unilaterally," pointed out the "almost general displeasure" of the members, and, in the letter's conclusion, proposed that a general assembly be called "soon" "to save the League."

According to this new committee, Claude Rozier's brother, Jean Rozier, heads the League in the Artibonite, and he is also a prefect— "that is, a student of Avril."

Robert Duval, after firing his driver, also allegedly vowed the man would remain "eternally unemployed."

The former president allegedly also chose Alix Damour, who is not a member of the League, to represent the League in Guadeloupe.

Also, the committee members claim they do not know where Mr Duval lives, for his residence is kept secret.

Furthermore, Duval is allegedly circulating the rumor that the current president and secretary general are "communists," and that several members of the new committee are not "former political prisoners." In this connection, the men distributed to the press LE MONITEUR issue No 64 dated Tuesday 20 September 1977, which lists their names among the 104 prisoners granted amnesty by Jean Claude Duvalier [name as published]. [passage omitted]

Former LAPPH Leader Robert Duval Criticized

FL1205124789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Members of the League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners held a news conference yesterday morning to inform public opinion of changes that have been made within the League. (Serge Ducarmel), Ernst Saint-Juste, Pierre Kesler Paul, and (Jules Celamat) make up the League's new executive committee. These men are accusing former LAPPH President Robert Duval of violating all the association's statutes.

Among the things they reproach Mr Duval, the new committee mentions his attitude, which is a bit dictatorial. They accuse him of indifference, of disregarding the opinions of the other members. They claim Mr Duval brought a number of unknown people into the League, yet never took into account their suggestions. For example, Duval never responded to their request for a general assembly, despite the fact that other members also called several times for such an assembly to discuss matters connected with Mr Duval's removal.

Thus, Mr Robert Duval is no longer a member of the executive committee of the LAPPH.

We will have you listen to an excerpt of this news conference.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] Bob Duval began by doing very positive work in the League. He started off by doing the work the League is supposed to do; that is, holding seminars, meeting with former political prisoners, meeting with a number of other people to discuss human rights, doing a number of things that used to be done when people were arrested arbitrarily, providing civic education for people, and so forth. That is what the League is for and Robert Duval had begun doing that.

However, ever since Charles Vorbes came into the League—I don't know where....[changes thought] They parachuted Charles Vorbes into the League. He put an end to this. Vorbes told Robert Duval that he is a political cadre, and that cadres do not go out, that cadres remain in the office.

So what happened? We see that there is no longer any contact (?among) League members. Duval's position seems to be that the League is (?his personal property).

Duval went off on a trip abroad. He didn't contact anyone in the League about this. No one in the League knows what Robert Duval went off to do. However, he traveled in the name of the League. When he returned, he did not present any report on what had gone on. He presented no report on anything at all. So, as far as he is concerned, the League is his personal property.

We do know that it is not up to us to put Robert Duval out of the League, for, like us, he too is a former political prisoner. We have nothing personal against Bob Duval as a Haitian citizen. Nor do we have any kind of color prejudice against him or anything like that. That is not what we are basing our decision on. We are basing it on the basic principle that Robert Duval has not managed the League the way he should have, and also that his term ended back in 1988, for the League is supposed to hold elections every 2 years.

We have no quarrel with Bob Duval. We are not empowered to put him out of the League, the way he himself has given to understand that he can throw people out of the League.

In order to throw a member out of the League, you have to call a special general assembly and make a decision, because the League has a very democratic charter. The League's leadership is not empowered to make decisions. It is up to the general assembly to make a decision, should the leadership make a recommendation on something. (?So) this is not (?our goal).

Thus, today we have come here to come into contact (?through) this committee. This committee that we have set up is not a definitive committee; it is a committee that has been set up for the purpose of holding elections in a month—not a day earlier or a day later. [end recording]

We remind listeners that this new executive committee is asking Mr Robert Duval to present a detailed report of the 3 years and 3 months during which he headed the League. They also asked him (?to let them return to) the League's former headquarters.

Mr Robert Duval, whom we contacted by telephone yesterday, categorically denied everything the members are saying about him. According to Duval, his position is clear. He says that the members of the new committee are impostors. He says that legally, these men are not members of the LAAPH. The fact that a man spent time in prison under the former regime does not automatically make you a member of the association, Duval says. Therefore, sometime this week Robert Duval intends to hold a news conference to respond to all these accusations.

Duval Refutes Accusations

FL1305151289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] The LAPPH is not divided, said LAPPH officials in a news conference yesterday morning. Here is [reporter] Colette:

[Colette] The LAPPH remains united. The members of the League's leadership are in solidarity with one another. There is no division between the League's leadership and its grass roots. [Words indistinct] is demagogy. [passage omitted]

The news conference was attended by all the members of the LAPPH's leadership, as well as by two provincial delegates and a few other League members. LAAPH President Robert Duval provided explanations in connection with a number of accusations made in the press by a group claiming to represent the LAPPH's grass roots. This group has denounced the way the League is operating. [passage omitted] Duval pointed out that these disparaging statements came after a number of other attacks on the League.

[Begin Duval recording, in progress]...as they say in French, at the League's new headquarters here in Babiole. They trashed some of the League's material and took other material away, as is written in the formal report by the justice of the peace of the north section of Port-au-Prince dated 15 April 1989. And that's not all! They also tried to set fire to the place here, too. Luckily for us, the attempt was unsuccessful. Here is the formal report, right here.

Just a few days after this incident, while the League's members were busy running around taking care of last-minute preparations for the commemoration of 26 April, national antirepression day, a number of agents provocateurs came and wrote in big letters on the League headquarters' walls: Down with mulattos. Long live [word indistinct]. We don't know who these agent provocateurs are working for, nor what their objective is.

Third, on the very day of 26 April, during the rally called for by 15 people's organizations, which was unfolding normally and without a hitch, a few enemy agents who had infiltrated the crowd tried unsuccessfully to carry out a provocation maneuver to disrupt the rally. Suddenly and without any reason whatsoever, they began running in all directions while yelling and gesticulating in order to panic the people present. The audience was eventually calmed down, thanks to the cool heads and self-control of the organizers.

In parallel with these vile acts of intimidation, they began circulating all kinds of rumors aimed at denigrating the members of the LAAPH leadership, thereby making it impossible for them to head the organization. [end recording]

Regarding the "Down with mulattos" written on the LAAPH headquarters walls, Duval says everyone has a right to his own convictions and ideology, even if that ideology is antimulatto, pro-black ["noiriste," term associated in Haiti with Duvalierism], Duvalierist, or macoute. However, no one is going to be allowed to apply any racist idea within the LAAPHH to pull the wool over people's eyes. The LAAPH feels that the question of color is an ideological weapon used by people of all colors who are opposed to change, regardless of whether these people are black, mulatto, or white. Such people use this weapon to confuse and divide the Haitian people, and prevent them from becoming aware of, from understanding the true reason that Haiti finds itself in the situation in which it is today.

They used this same issue of color to criticize the League for moving its headquarters to Pacot. The League feels the neighborhood a person lives in, his house, and the kind of car he drives has nothing to do with the person's political convictions.

The LAAPH says it is astonished to see political parties that have said they would not get involved in the internal affairs of organizations that put people on the air to propagate pro-black ideology during their broadcasts.

This remark of Duval's was aimed at the PUCH [Unified Party of Haitian Communists], where the men who are in disaccord with the LAAPH made a statement last Saturday. [sentence as heard]

During the news conference, the LAPPH also answered the question as to whether these men are members of the LAPPH or not. The League said that not all former political prisoners in Haiti were automatically members of the League. They said there were conditions to be met in order to join the LAPPH, and that these conditions were stipulated in the League's regulations. They said that as LAAPH officials, they had a right to protect the organization by seeking to determine who could and who could not be a member.

The group had also accused the LAPPH of operating like a political party. Duval said it was their right to engage in politics, but that the way these men had done things constituted a way to identify the members of the League to certain people. Duval said the LAAPH had its own objective and its own program based on the League's own general line, and that the League made public everything it did in a monthly bulletin that showed clearly the League's concept of and ideas on human rights.

These LAAPH officials feel that the problem of the men who are going around doing all this talking is that the LAAPH is not following the line of the political organization that is guiding these men from a distance and that sent them to do this. The LAAPH is an independent organization and nobody's flunky, they said.

As to the alliance between the LAPPH and the APN [People's National Assembly], these LAPPH officials said that the alliance conforms with the League's principles to take joint action with an organization whenever such action is possible and necessary; it is none of the League's business if the bosses of the people going around talking have a problem with the APN.

The dissidents had also accused the LAPPH of issuing press releases and communiques without consulting with the members. Duval said that issuing press releases was a part of the daily decisions that the LAAPH leaders are empowered to make, as long as what they do is in keeping with the League's general lines. He also said that they could not convene a general assembly every time they wanted to say something about what was going on in Haiti.

Regarding the League elections, which were supposed to take place in 1988, the LAPPH says: If the men protesting were really active members of the LAPPH, they would know that at the general assembly held in October 1988, the current LAAPH leaders were reelected for another 2-year term. They would know that it was decided to revise the regulations.

The LAAPH denied several more accusations, and explained that regarding the letter Vice President Claude Rozier sent Robert Duval on the way the organization was functioning, the members are in the habit of critiquing one another, but that the dissidents used the letter to claim that the LAAPH leadership was divided.

The LAAPH stated that what is happening here is that people who are opposed to change are using the fact that the popular movement has settled down a bit to commit a lot of vile acts. The LAAPH leaders said they cannot stop these people from forming their own organization, using their own name; however, the LAAPH warns the general public and the press to be wary of any document on LAAPH letterhead paper that they might receive, because LAPPH letterhead paper was stolen when [words indistinct].

Sitting at the speakers' table during the news conference were LAPPH President Robert Duval; Vice President Claude Rozier; member Gerard Toussaint; Gaston, a representative from Thiotte; and Telson, a representative from Casale.

New Foreign Minister Named in Cabinet Reshuffle

FL1505220389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There has been a cabinet reshuffle in Port-au-Prince. Information and Coordination Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre and Foreign Affairs and Worship Minister Serge Elie Charles left the Avril government this weekend.

Mrs Rosemarie Nazon, a high-ranking Information and Coordination Ministry official, replaces Virginie Saint-Pierre. Mr Yvon Perrier replaces Serge Elie Charles as head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship. [passage omitted]

A new director general for the National Tourism Office has also been appointed: Gilles Hendrick, a member of the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces.

Lastly, Mr (Thony F. Pierre) has been appointed director general of the Haitian State Lottery, to replace Mr Gerard Laforest, who was assassinated.

There has been some reaction among the political class following the announcement of this slight cabinet reshuffle.

Maurepas Auguste of the MDU [Movement for Democratic Unity] declared Saturday morning that the government's decision was suicidal.

Hubert de Ronceray of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development] considers the reshuffle a diversionary maneuver.

[Begin de Ronceray recording] [Passage omitted] This will not necessarily bring about the great change the nation is awaiting. We feel these are just a few diversionary maneuvers aimed at drawing people's attention away from the fundamental problems affecting Haitian society. We of the MDN are, instead, waiting to see the provisional government set resolutely about the task of organizing the electoral process. [passage omitted] We are somewhat indifferent to this decision, because we do not really see in it an action of any great significance in the desired direction. [end recording]

Jean-Claude Roy, an official of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists [UCH], thinks this change will not make any positive contribution toward solving the current crisis.

[Begin Roy recording, in Creole] I interpret this as an admission on the part of the government that there exists a certain malaise, that there is something awry in the political atmosphere and that if it keeps going the way it is, it will not get anywhere. [passage omitted]

Also, we see that he took a man who was criticized by the right and another who was criticized by the democratic sector. Therefore, once again, one has the same old impression that he is playing along with both sides. Well, OK, that is his strategy. I myself, however, do not think it is going to lead to concrete results. If it does, so much the better; but I don't think it will.

I myself think that we are at a political moment when the political class (?and) the great majority of the Haitian people are asking to participate. As long as you continue to make decisions arbitrarily, unilaterally, or among your own little circle and then come and impose these decisions on the political class, well, I don't think you will be able put it across, so to speak. I don't think this kind of reshuffle is going to give the government the credibility it is looking for.

Thus, in my opinion, nothing has been accomplished here, except that the government has admitted the existence of a certain malaise. However, I don't think the path Avril has taken in order to dissipate this malaise is going to lead to anything at all. [end recording]

New Information, Coordination Minister Installed

FL1505162989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Mrs Rosemarie Nazon, new minister of information and coordination, was installed shortly after 0800 today. Mrs Nazon replaces Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre.

Mrs Nazon was installed by outgoing Minister Saint-Pierre, who highlighted the exceptional character of the ceremony, pointing out that this is the first time this ministry is going to be headed by a woman. He declared, furthermore, that he is satisfied that he has given proof of dignity and loyalty in carrying out the work that he had to do while he was ministry head.

Mrs Nazon, for her part, talked of the work she had to do, the work of informing and coordinating. The ministry wants to entertain good relations with the media and to (?focus) on the matter of training journalists, which is one of the essential points of her program, declared the new minister.

Mr (Alfred Metord), director general of the Ministry of Information and Coordination, made the closing speech, said farewell to the outgoing minister, and welcomed the incoming minister, who is a (?long-time) employee of the ministry.

Caribbean Delegation To Issue Report on Nation

FL1205163589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 May 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...decided Wednesday to send a mission next June to see how things are going in Haiti. They will study the situation and issue a report. This report will be analyzed at the next meeting of Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] heads of state and government to be held in July.

The CCC, which is the Caribbean Council of Churches, is also sending a delegation to Haiti in June to analyze the situation, following the changes that have taken place in the wake of the political turmoil. On its return, the delegation will report to the CCC, which will then inform and advise the area heads of state and government on the situation in Haiti.

CCC Secretary General Reverend (Allan Kirten), who will be a part of this delegation, told us by phone from Bridgetown, Barbados, that, if the Haitian Government and Electoral Council so desired, the CCC could serve as an intermediary between the government and the council and foreign countries. The CCC could do this if the government and council asked for help in holding the elections.

(Allan Kirten) noted that officials in the Caribbean countries saw the Haitian situation differently.

[Begin recording] [(Kirten)] Now we want to know what changes there have been in the country and how these changes might affect our attitude and our policy toward Haiti, so that we may advise all the governments in the region on what their attitude toward Haiti could be.

[Reporter] Rev (Kirten), the CCC is going to send a delegation to Haiti. However, the delegation is coming at a time when there is again talk of elections. Does the CCC have a role to play in regard to elections in Haiti?

[(Kirten)] We would have a role only if we were to receive a request—if the Haitian people were to ask us to play a role in elections. I mean, we do not want to meddle in Haitian affairs, but if the government or the CEP [Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council] were to ask us to give them advice or help, we could consider doing so.

[Reporter] What kind of help do you feel you could give Haiti, in this connection?

[(Kirten)] Well, from the point of view of the internationalization of the situation we could contact sources of support, help the Haitian people (?to be supported) by the peoples of the Caribbean and by the international community in general. There are all kinds of things we can do.

[Reporter] Since you live in Barbados, which is part of Caricom, and since Caricom has been interested in the situation in Haiti for some time now—especially since the last elections—and since there is a Caricom delegation coming to Haiti again, next June, do you think Caricom is interested in what is happening in Haiti? And upon what grounds, in your opinion?

[(Kirten)] I think Caricom is interested, especially because we of the CCC have exerted a lot of pressure here. We have tried to publicize the Haitian situation, the case of Haiti, so that all of us in the Caribbean can understand, know, admit, and confess that what (?happens) in Haiti is our business too.

[Reporter] And what do you yourself think about the latest [rephrases] about what happened during the holding of the November 1987 elections? I mean, about the attitude of certain Caribbean governments, such as Edward Seaga's government, in Jamaica?

[(Kirten)] Well, we did not agree at all with Prime Minister Seaga's attitude and approach, because we felt he was playing a role that was not a West Indian one; rather, he was playing the role of some other Western power. We ourselves say that there is a purely West Indian interest that we must (?seek out) in order to progress. And now there is a new hope, a new attitude, a new approach that we can see among the prime ministers.

[Reporter] Don't you think there might be another Seaga to emerge from among the Caribbean chiefs of state and prime ministers, should there be another election organized in Haiti?

[(Kirten)] I don't think we are going to have another Seaga. Seaga is a special person, a singular individual. We can already see that there is a new attitude, a new spirit. I don't think, even if someone were to decide to be like Seaga, that such a person would have the same influence, the same power, within the prime ministers meeting, as Seaga. I don't think so.

[Reporter] And how about the Barbadian authorities? Are they more willing to resume the diplomatic relations with Haiti that they broke off after the November 1987 elections?

[(Kirten)] Well, judging by what I heard this afternoon, I have the impression that Barbados is in favor of the delegation's going. I suppose—I am almost sure—that if the delegation that will visit in June says that the policy toward Haiti must be changed, I am certain that Barbados will honor this and will change its attitude toward Haiti. [end recording]

We remind listeners that the CCC sent a delegation to work on the situation in Haiti in August 1987. For its part, Barbados got angry and broke off relations with Haiti after the failed elections of November 1987.

One strange thing we note is that today again, there are many comings and goings between Haiti and other countries. These comings and goings have recommenced on the eve of talk of elections.

A delegation from the Caribbean section of USAID was in Haiti last week to see how this U.S. Government agency can help in the development of democracy in Haiti.

And again, just yesterday, a few people sent by congressmen Fauntroy and Crockett to study the situation in Haiti arrived at Mais Gate airport.

While awaiting other visits, we remind listeners, just for the record, that on the occasion of the 1987 and 1988 elections, Haiti was visited by several prominent figures and delegations from foreign countries who have an interest in the matter—such as U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy, U.S. Senator Robert Graham, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, a Venezuelan delegation, and a delegation from the Caribbean chiefs of state and prime ministers.

In any case, what appears to be evident is that we are watching a rerun of the same old movie, so to speak.

Cost of U.S. Dollar Continues To Increase

FL1205191689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] The shortage of dollars at the money exchange dealers and in the streets is making Haitian businessmen anxious. The cost of the U.S. dollar is continuing to increase—26, 27, or 28 percent, depending on who sells you these dollars, which are becoming increasingly scarce. Clarens?

[Clarens] The dollar is at an all-time high in the streets of Port-au-Prince, between 28 and 30 percent. Certain Port-au-Prince merchants find this situation extremely exasperating.

It was almost impossible to find dollars to buy yesterday, either from the authorized money exchange dealers or on the streets.

It is to be noted that the cost of the dollar varies from 27.5 percent on Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines to 28 or 28.5 percent on Avenue Martin Luther King.

A Port-au-Prince merchant told us how sick and tired of this he is. He denounced first the (?absurd) whimsicality with which the cost of the dollar varies from one moment, one neighborhood, or one day to another, and, secondly, the indifference of Haiti's financial authorities in the face of a situation that is taking on proportions disquieting for the national economy and for commerce. [passage omitted]

The small street vendor of dollars, or ambulatory money-changer, cannot figure out what is going on either—that is, the reason for the staggering rise in a currency that is becoming increasingly harder to find, as well as increasingly expensive, in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Will the financier of General Prosper Avril's military government intervene with a view to putting this situation in order? In any case, this is a matter which will inevitably come up in an interview by [reporter] Rothschild with the finance minister next Monday.

Association Demands Teachers' Back Pay

FL1205181989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] The Port-au-Prince Teachers Association [AEP] has asked the Ministry of National Education to take all necessary measures to pay all the teachers working with trainees at the Damien teachers training college. The AEP wants the ministry to pay the teachers the first $250 installment that they should have been paid last March.

The AEP once again highlights how humiliating the Education Ministry's attitude is, stating that the ministry has not even bothered to apologize to the teachers for this serious irregularity.

Certain Education Ministry officials have even circulated a rumor to the effect that the money allocated to pay the teachers has been stolen. The AEP denounces this maneuver and informs the general public that, according to information it has obtained from a reliable source, the World Bank has transferred $1 million to the Banque de la Republique d'Haiti [the central bank] to finance this operation.

The AEP calls for the National Confederation of (?Haitian) Instructors in Port-au-Prince to intervene to prevent the situation from deteriorating, because the teachers involved are quite perturbed. [passage omitted]

People's Organizations Call for Strike 16 May

FL1205201589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Several people's organizations which all come together in ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations] have issued a call, saying they will go on strike nationwide on Tuesday, 16 May 1989. Among them are KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], ZEL [Student's Affairs], Fedka [Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations], Aamad [Anti-Macoute, Anti-Duvalierist Alliance], KASS [Coordinating Body of Associations of Cite Soleil], COH [Haitian Workers Committee], and House of Women. They will go on strike to demand the release of all members of the Cite Soleil Vigilance Brigade; to put an end to all the insecurity that (?thugs), thieves, and criminals have let loose on the nation with the complicity of the police and the hollow Justice Department; and to bring down the price of gasoline and of articles of prime necessity such as oil, sugar, flour, milk, bread, and so forth.

Road Workers at City Hall Striking Since 11 May

FL1505164689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] The employees of Port-au-Prince City Hall's Department of Roads and Thoroughfares have been on strike since Thursday [11 May] afternoon. [passage omitted] They have been striking to demand not only the $120 they claim principal communal magistrate Andre Juste promised them but also his presence at City Hall. They have not seen him at City Hall since Monday. The employees say rumors are circulating that Mayor Andre Juste resigned as a result of the difficulties he is encountering because of the $120 salary he wanted to give them. [passage omitted]

Our reporter, Morisson Charles, tells us that all the workers were in City Hall's courtyard today, Friday. There was a placard reading: Down with Romulus. Long live Andre Juste.

The workers say the rumor is that Andre Juste is going to be replaced by William Romulus, the number two communal magistrate.

The police removed the placards the employees had put up.

After much arguing, a 15-member delegation went off to meet with the remaining members of the communal committee in connection with this matter.

Despite all our attempts, we were unable to contact either principal magistrate Andre Juste or number two magistrate William Romulus on this matter.

Resurgence of Armed Robberies in Capital Noted

FL1205183989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] There is a current resurgence of armed robberies in the capital and even in certain provincial towns. There were numerous burglaries in the metropolitan area during Tuesday night's [9 May] long power failure.

The latest case to be brought to our attention occurred at Secom [Rent-a-Car], where a car was stolen. The manager, Reynold Roy, tells us about it.

[Begin Roy recording, in Creole] I must tell you that this is the second time in 1 and ½ weeks that this has happened. [passage omitted] They were armed. They began firing weapons in the lot to frighten our watchman, who was not armed. Thus, the watchman had to lock himself in his room, and the robbers took over the lot. They were very much at ease. They broke down the office door and went inside. From the traces we found, it looks as if they sat in the office awhile, and even had something to drink there. They appear to have been very much at ease.

Then they went out into the lot, broke a window on one of the cars so they could open the door, and somehow got the car started. [passage omitted] They drove right over the metallic gate on rollers that we have up front. They knocked it down, making lots of noise.

It looks to me as if they must have spent at least an hour here, making a big ruckus. Finally, they left with the car. [passage omitted] And it isn't just last night that they fired weapons in the lot. They did it last week too, when they came. [end recording]

La Gonave Residents Block Official's Installation

FL1205184989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] In La Gonave, the population has risen up in protest against the installation of a justice of the peace on the island. The population declared that such a position should be filled by a resident of La Gonave. Our correspondent will give us details.

[Correspondent (Simon Juste Flambert)] On Wednesday 10 May, the population of Anse a Galets rose up in protest and refused to allow Mr Jean Camille Grand-Pierre to be installed as alternate judge of the court of conciliation in Anse a Galets. Mr Camille Grand-Pierre is replacing (Maxo Angrand), who has been promoted to main judge replacing (Jean-Baptiste Clothaire), who died some 8 months ago.

Mr Camille Grand-Pierre, who is from Arcahaie, came from Port-au-Prince with his (?commission) as alternate judge of Anse a Galets.

This matter gave rise to much arguing by both young and old, to the point where it became impossible to install Mr Grand-Pierre Wednesday. Tension was running so high that the local authorities had to postpone the installation until some later date, for even the schoolchildren were let out of school and managed to mobilize to prevent the installation.

The population asked that Mr David Oscar be made the alternate judge. David Oscar has been the court clerk for approximately 9 years.

Mr Grand-Pierre had to take refuge at the barracks in Anse a Galets for security reasons.

This is Simon Juste Flambert, Radio Soleil, La Gonave.

Driver Claims 'Forced' in Burglary Participation

FL1205190789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] The driver of a public transportation vehicle that travels between Port-au-Prince and Jacmel has been in jail for the past 2 days at the Investigations and Anti-Gang Service, where he went to complain after two armed individuals forced him to burglarize a house here in Port-au-Prince with them.

[Jacmel correspondent Jean-Pierre Jacques] At approximately 0200 on Tuesday, two armed men wearing military uniforms and one civilian forced the driver of a Jacmel vehicle who was at the Port-au-Prince terminal to burglarize a house with them. The men forced driver Henri Petiote to take the door to the house off the hinges, and they carted away many things from the house.

When they let the driver go, he went to the Criminal Investigations Department [now known as Investigations and Anti-Gang Service] to turn himself in and explain what had happened. However, the department detained him. He is now in jail there. [passage omitted]

We point out that drivers say this is not the first time this kind of thing has happened at the Jacmel terminal in Port-au-Prince. Therefore, they are asking for someone to look into this matter.

This is Jean-Pierre Jacques, Radio Soleil, Jacmel.

Teachers Association on Carrefour School Problem

FL1305170589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpts] At a news conference yesterday, the leaders of the AEP [Port-au-Prince Teachers Association] said that irresponsibility on the part of the government and the Education Ministry is the fundamental cause of the current problems at the Carrefour communal school. The AEP said that the 9 May murder attempt at the Carrefour communal school is making them think carefully. The AEP offered its services to the victims of this attempt if they wish to take any legal action. [passage omitted]

We are dealing with an Education Ministry whose policy seems to be totally laissez-faire, the AEP said during a news conference to discuss the school's problems. AEP feels that if the Education Ministry officials cannot take even minimal action on the problem, they should resign.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] We realize this is a complex problem. However, we think that a few of those people in the ministry with a bunch of diplomas and making big bucks should look into the situation and make some recommendations, even to the Ministry of Interior if need be, so as to set things in order. [passage omitted] [end recording]

AEP is greatly concerned over the attempted murder of two students from the Carrefour communal school, and offered the victims the association's legal services so they can haul into court the student who tried to kill them—who is not a minor—as well as the school's director. AEP is also taking initiatives to provide security for the school's teachers, whose lives are in danger.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We have heard that there are armed civilians, alleged City Hall employees—although no one knows what their duties are—who have pulled guns on the students and the teachers. We have sent the Police Department a letter pointing out once again what is being done, and giving them the names of the people doing these things. Now we are watching to see what happens. This Police Department rather quickly arrested people in a vigilance brigade who were carrying pointed iron bars and knives on the assumption that they were committing crimes. We now ask them to act just as quickly in restoring order by taking action against these bums, who are threatening, killing, and stabbing students and throwing families into mourning. [passage omitted]

If the people in the Education Ministry are incapable of shouldering even a minimum of responsibility in cases such as this, the government should replace them. [passage omitted]

Everyone knows what kind of role the magistrates have always played here in Haiti! [passage omitted] And you still want the magistrates to appoint and pay schoolteachers? Every magistrate that comes into office changes the entire team of teachers at the school, putting his own people in! No! I think that things are too serious now in Haiti for this to continue. It's time everyone understood what is going on. It's time for us to shoulder our responsibilities. [end recording]

The school's teachers deny the statement by school director Wilson Cadet that the education section accepted money from the former communal magistrate [Jean Max Aubourg] to agitate at the school so that the former magistrate could return to office. [passage omitted] For their part, the teachers claim [words indistinct]. They say the education section is apolitical and that its objective is to change things at the communal schools. They are calling for a solution to this problem, which is dragging on too long.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, while Radio Caraibes was interviewing a student, four men, one armed with a knife and the other three with revolvers, came up and told the journalist: If you don't leave right now, we'll take action. The journalist fled. [passage omitted] [end recording]

We remind listeners that the Carrefour communal school has been in the news for some time and that its problems have not been solved to this day.

Reportage on Government's Reaction to Panama

Ambassador Recalled

FL1205123989 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Foreign Secretariat tonight released a brief communique announcing that it had recalled Mexican Ambassador to Panama Carlos Planck for immediate consultations.

On Tuesday, the ambassador told a newspaper that there is no doubt that the United States is interfering in Panama. Yesterday the so-called Rio Group issued a statement reiterating its commitment to the defense of the principles of nonintervention, the self-determination of peoples, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The group also called for unrestricted respect for the provisions of the Panama Canal treaties.

We believe that with this move the Mexican Government is assuming a specific stand on Panama's domestic conflict. The fact that Mexican Ambassador to Panama Carlos Planck has been recalled for immediate consultations evokes the possibility that our country will withdraw its diplomatic representation to that Central American country. This means that our embassy in Panama is momentarily leaderless.

Envoy Arrives in Mexico City

FL1205221989 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—The safety of 350 Mexican families residing in Panama is guaranteed. This was said by Carlos Planck, Mexican ambassador to Panama, upon his return to Mexico City.

Interviewed at the Benito Juarez International Airport, he said he was recalled by the federal government to report to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana on the situation in Panama.

He declined to make major commentaries on the events in Panama after the elections held last Sunday [7 May].

Deputies Issue Communique

FL1305010089 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2313 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Chamber of Deputies has expressed its hopes that the Panamanian people can decide, without any type of interference, their destiny in the free and democratic exercise of their political rights.

In a communique, the seven parliamentarian faction members of the 54th legislature expressed their support for Panama in the struggle for its sovereignty over the canal. The members of the Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Guadalupe Gomez Maganda of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), showed their concern over the events in the Republic of Panama and their possible effects on peace in the region.

The communique signed by Marcela Lombardo (PPS) [Popular Socialist Party], Roberto Jaramillo (PFCRN) [Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party], Amalia Garcia (PMS) [Mexican Socialist Party], Ismael Yanez (CD) [Democratic Current], Jesus Gonzalez (PARM) [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], and Guadalupe Gomez Maganda (PRI), indicates that the basic principles of international coexistence should be applied to the events in Panama without restrictions.

The free self-determination of the peoples and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of a nation should prevail inasmuch as the respect of these postulates will make it possible that regional safety and stability are not threatened. They are necessary for the advancement of the democratic processes and the development of its peoples, stated the communique.

Salinas on Panama's Rights

FL1305025089 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0217 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Chihuahua, Mexico, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—Mexico is following the events that are taking place in Panama. This was said here by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, before returning to Mexico City today.

After he completed his 2-day working tour through Chihuahua State, in the northern party of the country, the chief of state ratified the right of free self-determination of the peoples in line with what was expressed in the joint statement of the Rio Group.

Government Wants Nonintervention

PA1505040889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0328 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 May (DPA)—Mexico will reject any foreign intervention in Panama at the special OAS meeting to be held next Wednesday, requested by the United States following the annulment of the Panamanian elections.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry warned in a communique issued this evening that the OAS must not become a higher court for the Panamanian election process. The Mexican Foreign Ministry emphasized that the principle of nonintervention must prevail above all, thus anticipating Mexico's position at the forthcoming special OAS foreign ministers meeting to be held at OAS headquarters in Washington.

Mexico will abstain from interfering in Panama beyond what is established in the OAS statutes concerning safeguarding respect for human rights. The Foreign

Ministry also emphasized that the current Panama Canal treaties—which state that the maritime waterway and the zone currently occupied by the United States must be turned over to the Panamanian Government before 2000—must be respected.

The Mexican Government's communique expressed concern over the conflict following the annulment of the Panamanian elections in which—according to international observers—the opposition won by a wide margin. The communique added that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, is worsening the situation by placing his personal interests above reaching a democratic solution.

The Foreign Ministry urged the Panamanian authorities, on behalf of the Mexican Government, to use political maturity and solve the conflict democratically.

Nation Outlines Position

FL1505140089 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1315 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The following is a report on a communique issued by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat yesterday regarding our country's position in light of the Panamanian conflict. I feel that it is important that everyone be aware of this communique.

Mexico expresses deep concern for what is happening in Panama and demands that the Panamanian authorities show proof of political maturity and try to achieve a peaceful and democratic solution to its domestic problems. The Mexican Foreign Secretariat points out that it is regrettable that the Panamanian situation has worsened as a result of the personal stance of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, whose moral reputation has been discredited and who has only made his private interests prevail over those of the Panamanian people. The communique also urges the members of the OAS to solve all problems through peaceful means and help create in Panama an internal environment that will promote the advance of democracy.

The Foreign Secretariat confirms its commitment signed with the Rio Group thus reaffirming its respect for the principles of nonintervention, self-determination of the peoples, respect for human rights, and consolidation of democracy. The Foreign Secretariat says that our country, and other countries of the area, has agreed to call an OAS foreign ministers' meeting to study the Panamanian case. This meeting will be held on Wednesday. In accord with the OAS charter, Mexico will base its position on the following points:

Every state has a right to choose its political, economic, and social system without foreign intervention, and must not intervene in the affairs of other states.

Likewise, Mexico stresses that democracy is indispensable for regional peace and development; however, it rejects the OAS becoming a critic of Latin American electoral processes. The Mexican Foreign Secretariat adds that the OAS must defend human rights. It also stresses that it will discuss the case of Panama on this basis and will refrain from making statements on matters that are exclusive to each state. In addition, Mexico reaffirms the importance of fulfilling the Panama Canal treaties, the Torrijos-Carter treaties signed in 1977, and states that the maritime waterway must be turned over to the Panamanian Government.

Situation 'Aggravated' by Noriega

PA1505170689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1638 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 15 May (EFE)—The Mexican Government today expressed regret that the situation in Panama "has been aggravated by the personal attitude of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, whose moral and ethical reputation has been tarnished and who has now imposed his private interests over those of the people."

In a communique issued by the Foreign Relations Secretariat [SRE], Mexican authorities denied that the OAS "has become an appeals court for the electoral processes of American countries."

The OAS can defend democracy in Latin America in a manner compatible with the principles of nonintervention, "through the defense of human rights, in strict compliance with existing instruments on the subject," the SRE said.

The Mexican Government reaffirmed that its foreign policy regarding the Panamanian situation will remain within the confines of the OAS Charter and the principles of nonintervention and people's right to free self-determination.

However, the Mexican authorities said that "lamentably," the events in Panama "separate that brother country from from the Latin American democratic community, a situation aggravated by the high level of confrontation and violence that have resulted in the public violation of human rights."

The communique reaffirms that the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal treaties must be complied with. In those treaties, the United States pledged to turn over the waterway to the Latin American nation.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat emphasized that "in view of the serious events occurring in Panama, Mexico feels that respect for the legal system, for human rights, and for the citizens' will must prevail."

Finally, the communique urged "Panamanian authorities to show political maturity by finding a solution to their internal conflicts within the framework of respect for the people's will and for Panamanians' human, civil, and political rights."

Costa Rica

Madrigal Condemns Panamanian Government Actions
PA1605022389 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0114 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto in San Jose on 15 May—recorded]

[Text] The Costa Rican Government believes there must be a strong inter-American effort to defend the Panamanian people's freedom and that the resolution Costa Rica is preparing will [words indistinct] the inter-American countries.

Reiterating what I said a short while ago, I believe that all nations should defend the OAS provisions, especially those articles stating that all nations should have democratic beliefs and that they should defend human rights.

When there is such a flagrant violation as has happened in Panama, the inter-American community should take upon itself the responsibility of finding a solution. I, however, cannot say what solution or measures will be adopted. I believe that people as intelligent as you are should know that a foreign minister cannot foretell what solutions the other foreign ministers will come up with.

Costa Rica's position is—as the Costa Rican Government has already stated—one of firm and absolute condemnation of the Panamanian Government's human rights violations. [Words indistinct] other groups of leaders close to the government [words indistinct], which are quite serious and merit our full condemnation.

Police Note Panamanian Refugee Arrivals
PA1305233589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 May 89

[Excerpt] Commissioner Juan Felix Barrantes, director general of Costa Rica's Civil Police, has reported to Radio Impacto that more Panamanian refugees have arrived in Costa Rica. He was interviewed by our reporter.

[Begin recording] [Barrantes] More refugees have arrived.

[Reporter] Approximately how many?

[Barrantes] Twenty-three, so far. Aside from this, the situation is calm here at the border, as reported from the various checkpoints.

[Reporter] Are the UNCHR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and DIGEPARE [Directorate General for Refugees] people classifying these arrivals as refugees or something else?

[Barrantes] This is the situation: We kept the refugees at the garrison until last night. They have now been moved to the community hall in Ciudad Neilly, where the UNCHR and DIGEPARE are doing their job well. But it is up to the immigration authorities to establish the refugees' status.

[Reporter] Commissioner, from your experience, do you think the flow of refugees will increase?

[Barrantes] Those who have arrived have reported that more might come today or tomorrow and over the next few days. But we have no source of information other than that provided by the arrivals themselves.

[Reporter] What are these people like? Are they peasants, businessmen, or people who do other kinds of work?

[Barrantes] Some are peasants; others say they are opposition legislators, and all say they are being persecuted. We are handling the situation by making a list of the arrivals and taking them to UNCHR and DIGEPARE at the community hall.

[Reporter] What do you think will happen now in Panama? Will the situation last much longer?

[Barrantes] I would not venture to predict, but the arrivals have said they expect the situation to last several more days. The problem cannot at all be perceived at the border, because the tension and unrest are occurring in places such as David and Puerto Armuelles, which we cannot control. All the information we have has been provided by the arrivals. We have no trouble with the Panamanian people or Government at the border. [passage omitted]

Quarterly Increase in Imports, Trade Balance
PA1305134789 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 May 89 p 4-a

[Summary] Imports increased $56.9 million during the 1st quarter of 1989 compared to the figures for the same period last year. Costa Rica has reduced customs tariffs on foreign goods on three occasions, which eases the import of foreign products. This is part of the structural adjustment plan signed with the World Bank and the Japanese Government to modernize the economy and receive $200 million. During the 1st quarter of 1989, exports totaled $340.1 million and imports $401.5 million. Therefore, the trade balance for this period shows a negative balance of $61.4 million, compared to a $42.9-million negative balance during the 1st quarter of 1988.

Banana Production, Export Plan Implemented
PA1305132189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 May 89

[Summary] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Agriculture Minister Jose Maria Figueres, Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo, and Economy Minister Antonio Burgues signed an executive decree yesterday authorizing a new banana development program through which the country will be able to export 90 million boxes of this fruit annually and resume growing bananas in the country. As part of the incentives established by the new development plan, the government has raised the price of each box of exported bananas by $0.37.

El Salvador

Duarte on FMLN Leaving Country, Defense Groups

PA1305034489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 May 89

[Interview with President Jose Napoleon Duarte by Milton Grimaldi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Duarte] I have made a decision. There is confusion between an amnesty and the evacuation of FMLN rebels maimed during the war. I want to explain the difference, because I have ordered the evacuation of the maimed rebels within the framework of the humanization process that I have been implementing for the past 5 years. This is nothing new, and it is absolutely legal because any person, any Salvadoran citizen has the right to leave and to enter the country if there are no criminal charges against him. I have not ordered the departure of people who are under litigation or whose trial is pending—only those who have no case pending at court. It is true that I have received lists of people who are being tried, but I have no authority to allow their departure from the country [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Duarte] I am not against the civilian defense groups. In fact I have created some government positions to train these groups and to prepare them even better to defend democracy. The danger I see is that this can create a Lebanon in El Salvador, because it can lead to the existence of a third Army. This is dangerous for national security and for the Armed Forces as an institution. I believe that the Armed Forces cannot allow itself the luxury of creating an additional military force in the country. That is why I oppose this and have issued instructions to the defense minister to personally handle the case. All the civilian defense groups that are needed can be created, provided that they are completely under the Armed Forces' authority and not outside the purview of the Armed Forces institution.

More on Civil Defense Creation

FL1505151089 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 May 89 pp 2, 11

[Excerpts] President Jose Napoleon Duarte yesterday spoke out against the organization of the Patriotic Civil Defense and said that the first contingent was sworn in without consulting him as they should have since he is commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

A group of 74 professionals, including engineers, lawyers, employees, intellectuals, and businessmen, received special training and were sworn in by Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade.

The members of the paramilitary group will not be paid for their work and, under special conditions, will adhere to military discipline. They will also receive physical training and taught the use of weapons to repel the aggression launched by terrorist groups.

Moments after accepting the credentials presented by the new German Ambassador Joachim Neukrich, Duarte met with reporters and expressed his fear that the behavior of "these people will change once they have weapons in their hands."

The president does not feel that organizing these groups will provide the people with more security.

Meanwhile, Duarte condemned the annulment of the presidential elections in Panama and said that he is drafting a note to the OAS General Secretariat to request an urgent meeting of the Executive Council to analyze the situation that has developed in that nation. [passage omitted]

Duarte said that the recent incidents in Panama are similar to those that occurred in El Salvador in 1972 when the military, together with the ruling National Conciliation Party (PCN), refused to recognize his triumph in the elections. In 1972 Duarte ran for office as candidate of a coalition of several extreme leftist parties. [passage omitted]

Regarding the recent terrorist actions in the interior of the country, Duarte underplayed their importance, stating that these are "propagandistic operations that do not represent anything positive for the recovery of peace in our country."

Disbandment Discussed

PA1305003989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 89

[Report by Elmer Gomez on interview with Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] Good morning, dear listeners. Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova today announced that the Patriotic Civilian Defense groups—which were sworn in last weekend by Colonel Juan Zepeda, 1st Infantry Brigade commander—will be disbanded.

[Begin recording] [Reporter, in progress] ...statement by President Duarte stating that the creation of the Patriotic Civilian Defense groups will contribute toward the formation of dangerous forces and increase the number of death squads?

[Vides Casanova] I have talked with the 1st Infantry Brigade commander and have found out that in fact these civilian defense groups have been created through a decree, just like the other civilian defense groups. Nevertheless, given the speculation that has arisen as a result of the announcement and given the fact that the Armed Forces have no intention of allowing the existence of paramilitary forces or any dangerous forces that are beyond the control of the Armed Forces, we have issued orders to suspend the creation of these civilian defense groups. Therefore, any civilian defense group being organized must come under the control of Armed Forces military commanders.

[Reporter] Is anyone in charge of disbanding these groups?

[Vides Casanova] No, all the commander has to do is to notify these groups that they have been disbanded. As I have said, the Patriotic Civilian Defense groups have been created with the best of intentions. I think that the best cooperation they could give us is to help us locate the areas where explosions have occurred; the group's members live in various neighborhoods. However, I believe that if the authorities, the church, etc. have misunderstood, the best thing would be to disband the groups to avoid any further speculation.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] creation last week?

[Vides Casanova] No, they were sworn in during a symbolic ceremony. They earn no salary; they receive absolutely nothing. They are simply part of a civilian defense group and therefore they will simply be notified, and that is all. [end recording]

Church 'Concerned'

FL1205175889 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 8 May 89 p 6

[Text] San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas yesterday expressed concern over the creation of the "Patriotic Civil Defense Units" [Defensas Civiles Patrioticas—DCP] in the neighborhoods and suburbs of the capital, and said that "this will only worsen the internal war."

Over the weekend, the 1st Infantry Brigade swore in 72 paramilitary members of San Salvador's civilian self-defense units. The units are designed to get the people involved in the fight against the guerrillas.

After delivering his Sunday homily, Rivera y Damas said: "I believe this move will yield bitter results, mainly because we are in the midst of a democratic process in which everyone has to take care of himself," and because greater bloodshed must be avoided.

Rivera y Damas said: "We have to resolve our problems in a concerted manner, through understanding and dialogue, and this move (by the Armed Forces) can throw the democratic process off course."

The archbishop warned that the creation of these "self-defense committees" tends only to involve civilians in matters of security and espionage.

On the other hand, Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, was pleased with the incorporation of civilians into the counterinsurgency plans because, he said, this will help the Armed Forces carry out its operations more efficiently.

Zepeda said: "This is a way to enhance security. The value of the DCPs' is not their rifles or their offensive or defensive capabilities, but the level of organization attained by the civilians who oppose aggression... Marxist aggression."

The 72 members of the DCP, as they are described in the counterinsurgency plans, will be assigned to the Escalon and Miramonte neighborhoods, as well as to the densely populated districts of Mejicanos and Ayutuxtepeque and several other areas.

These paramilitary units are being organized at a time when the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is attacking military positions and sabotaging economic targets. This campaign is under way in the capital and its outskirts and appears to be growing.

These attacks and counterattacks by the parties involved in the war have led Archbishop Rivera y Damas to express a concern that El Salvador may have entered a "tunnel" with no exit. He said: "The way things are going, with this increase in violence, we are venturing further into this tunnel."

Rivera y Damas insisted that Salvadorans have to come to terms with reality and admit that the war is something evil that must be terminated. He added: We must do something to bring it to an end; and we must pray for all those who have suffered the consequences of the war, for the crippled, and for the dead.

Faced with this bleak prospect, Rivera y Damas praised the fact that an FMLN delegation has traveled to the United States, to the United Nations, to publicly state the group's intention to achieve a negotiated political solution to the armed conflict.

"I believe this is positive," he said, despite the Armed Forces' claim that the rebels' only purpose is to gain some credibility due to their "dismal failure" in the military arena.

Concluding, the archbishop criticized the fact that during the past week, 7 civilians were killed and 31 were injured by homemade bombs placed by the FMLN at several locations throughout the country.

Ponce on FMLN Aid From Cuba, Nicaragua

FL1505160589 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 12 May 89 p 7

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, head of the Armed Forces' Joint Chiefs of Staff, has again accused Cuba and Nicaragua of supplying weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas and said that "70 percent of the guerrilla actions depends on this support."

After holding a breakfast news conference with the Association of Foreign Journalists in El Salvador, the military leader told national newsmen that Cuba and Nicaragua sent between 800 to 1,000 weapons to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in the past 10 months.

Col Ponce said that "the numerous guerrilla attacks are proof of the notorious logistical support from Cuba and Nicaragua, which have sent AK-47 rifles, Dragunov rifles with telescopic sights, RPG-18 [rocket launchers], and recently manufactured ammunition."

The head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the FMLN "offensive" is a desperate, but unimportant, action. He described as more serious the actions at Tejutepeque, Berlin, and the 3d Brigade Headquarters in San Miguel.

Referring to the offensive launched by the FMLN on Wednesday in which there have been more than 100 casualties, Col Ponce said: "The FMLN would like to project the image of a military strength that it does not have; the rebels were unable to hold any position or enter any of the installations." As part of its offensive the FMLN attacked military positions in 15 towns in 7 of the country's departments. In its clandestine broadcasts the FMLN named the offensive "Everyone against ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]; let us struggle for peace."

The Armed Forces chief said that the supply of weapons by Nicaragua has allowed the FMLN to maintain a steady pace of actions, with which the FMLN would like to "project an image of military might and to sow terror among the people."

ARDE Threatens FMLN Urban Command Members

FL1505192789 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 May 89 p 11

[Text] A communique issued by Anticommunist Revolutionary Extermination Action [Accion Anticomunista Revolucionaria de Exterminio], ARDE, was sent last night to the media in the eastern sector of the country. In its communique, ARDE issues death threats to 10 persons whom it accuses of being members of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] urban commands.

According to the communique, "ARDE has issued specific orders to its members to begin the execution of those persons, as of last night, in light of the violent actions that the FMLN urban commands are carrying out." The ARDE anticommunists stated that "those individuals are enemies of the people and of democracy; they burn stores, destroy factories, and kidnap and murder peasants."

The communique includes the names of persons "to be executed as of this moment:" Pedro Azmitia, chief of operations of the urban commands in San Miguel; Boris Gonzalez, Jalacatal Canton; Vicente Ruiz Martinez, Linares neighborhood, Jucuapa; Ana Portillo, Milagro de la Paz neighborhood, San Miguel; Francisco Salgado, 15 September neighborhood, San Miguel; Anselmo Arevalo, Ojos de Agua Canton, San Miguel; Francisco Alfredo Gonzalez, El Carrizal Canton, San Miguel; Santiago Diaz del Cid, San Francisco neighborhood, San Miguel; and Carlos Penate, Usulutan. [9 names as published]

The situation of the persons mentioned in the communique is unknown but, in San Miguel, the ARDE communique has caused great concern.

Meanwhile, early this morning, several explosions were heard in San Miguel and at approximately 0005, a bomb destroyed the home of Jose Vicente Bonilla located on 7th Avenue South, No. 807, San Miguel. Minutes after the explosion, which caused no victims, a fire truck showed up at the scene because as a result of the explosion, Mr Bonilla's home caught on fire.

Archbishop on Respect for Panama Opposition Win

PA1505042189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2158 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 May (REUTER)—A prominent Salvadoran bishop today urged the Panamanian Government to respect the opposition's victory in last week's presidential elections, but he opposed a military intervention to topple military strongman Manuel Noriega. "I do not want Panama to suffer a tragedy like El Salvador's," auxiliary Archbishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez told reporters after his homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The local Catholic Church has kept in contact with Panamanian bishops and agrees with them that Noriega's adversaries have been stripped of their victory. Rosa Chavez added that international pressure should be exerted against Noriega to resolve the situation. "I hope the military aspect will not be a determining factor," the archbishop said.

Meanwhile, leftist guerrillas say that they are willing to fight with the Panamanian people against what they have described as a U.S. policy of aggression. The United States augmented its forces in Panama after the violent incidents following the elections, which were annulled on Wednesday.

A Havana Radio Rebelde broadcast reported that the U.S. actions were increasing tension throughout the region. It urged regional governments to oppose U.S. President George Bush's efforts to pressure Panama.

FMLN Comments on Panamanian Elections

PA1305041089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 May 89

[Station commentary: "If the Canal Is Not for the Panamanians, it Will Not Be for Anyone Else"]

[Text] Panama became an obsession for Ronald Reagan. He tried to overthrow the Panamanian Government and replace it with one that would betray Panamanian sovereignty and sell the canal to the United States. Reagan, however, faced the consequences of the feelings inspired by the late General Omar Torrijos. The canal belongs to the Panamanian people.

The Yankees have taken their imperialist obsession to such an extreme that at present the main question that countries and peoples of the world have is whether the United States is capable of invading Panama.

Elections have just been held in Panama. Within the framework of those elections [words indistinct] signs [words indistinct] Yankee interference. The United States delivered approximately $10 million [words indistinct] who are part of ADOC [Panama's Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] to support [Guillermo] Endara's candidacy and led an international campaign announcing an election fraud in Panama. [Words indistinct] the world that in Panama the United States also wants [word indistinct] to its policy of turning elections into an instrument of Yankee [words indistinct] the people's will.

The Yankee propaganda and psychological war [words indistinct] public opinion announcing the fraud, although it is well known that in Panama the majority of Panamanians will vote for the sovereignty of the canal. The United States has attempted to [words indistinct] the elections as [words indistinct] toward Central America. However, this has turned against them. In El Salvador, for example, elections were one of the main components of the counterinsurgency strategy [words indistinct]. The remedy ended up as poison. Most Salvadorans abstained from voting and the oligarchic majority won the government, thus putting the foreign [words indistinct] the Presidency, which is not a very convenient front for the U.S. Congress.

During the last elections in Nicaragua, the people's vote reaffirmed their support for the revolution, and, at the upcoming elections [words indistinct]. U.S. planes have not ceased their overflights of [words indistinct] Panama. The fraud was a lie spread by U.S. news agencies, and the climate of disturbances and confusion lead the Panamanian Government to suspend the troubled election process. In a country like Panama, where the grassroot sectors have waged a historic battle for the sovereignty of the canal, it is hard to believe that people would vote for the U.S. [words indistinct]. If any of Reagan's [words indistinct] who would dare to invade Panama are still around, we firmly believe that they will not find another Grenada. They will find thousands and thousands of Panamanians determined to defend their sovereignty, and, as Gen Torrijos said: If the canal is not for the Panamanians, it will not be for anyone else.

Colonel Ponce Downplays Recent FMLN Offensive

PA1405042289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 11 May 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas on statements by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rivas] As a result of the defeat the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] suffered in the recent elections, it has begun to carry out desperate actions that are further removing it from any victory over the Armed Forces, according to Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was referring to the most recent guerrilla attacks against various military positions in at least 10 departments within the framework of the insurgent offensive labeled "All Against ARENA" [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. Ponce said the strongest attacks were launched on Tejutepeque, Berlin, and the 3d Infantry Brigade, on which they shot a mortar shell.

[Ponce] They want to present an image of military power that they do not have. Proof of this is that they did not have the ability to hold on to any town or enter any military installation. I believe these are desperate actions by the FMLN resulting from their political and military defeat in the recent presidential elections.

[Rivas] Ponce said the Army sustained 14 dead and 39 wounded, adding that the guerrillas sustained 21 dead and 39 wounded.

[Ponce] Yesterday, our units reacted to 28 skirmishes and clashes nationwide. It is a new military offensive by the FMLN to destabilize the present government and try to prevent the change of government on 1 June.

[Rivas] Ponce added that the FMLN will never be able to achieve power by force and that ARENA won the presidential and legislative elections in only 7 years compared to the 10-year war waged by the guerrillas so far without achieving anything. According to Ponce, the

FMLN offensive has not achieved its goals, and the presidential inauguration will be held as scheduled on 1 June, despite the existing threats.

Ecuadoran 'Mercenaries' Join Guerrillas

PA1405162689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 13 May (EFE)—The Salvadoran Army reported today that 19 Ecuadoreans disappeared 24 days ago from a hotel on the Salvadoran Pacific coast presumably to join the guerrilla movement as "mercenaries."

A report from the Army's press office indicates that the Ecuadoreans, whose ages range between 17 and 44 years, made a stopover in El Salvador, saying they were on their way to Honduras.

The suspected "mercenaries" presented their documents at the Immigration Office and have not yet returned to these offices to retrieve them.

The Army identified these Ecuadoreans as:

Osvaldo Calle Zumba	(21 years old), student
Ramon Rovalino Balaguachi Avila	(28 years old), farmer
Miguel Gerardo Mejia Mejia	(44 years old), merchant
Segundo Alaba Castro	(44 years old), employee
Ramon Salvador Mendieta	(22 years old), student
Jose Maria Mendieta	(28 years old), merchant
Daniel Barahona Robles	(22 years old), student
Miguel Toalongo Sucusadai	(27 years old), laborer
Angel Benigno Fernandez Campoverde	(20 years old), student
Carlos Guillermo Fernandez	(18 years old), employee
Wilson Rene Naula Bravo	(26 years old), student
Luis Arturo Guzman	(31 years old), driver
Jose Antonio Gutierrez	(35 years old), farmer
Edgar Manuel Siguenza Lozano	(17 years old), student
Daniel Rodriguez Avila	(35 years old), farmer
Jose Alejandro Villa Avila	(26 years old), laborer
Segundo Diaz Argitez	(26 years old), driver
Manuel Ermel Rojas	(22 years old), [profession not given]

[List of 18 names as received]

Electricity Rationed Due to FMLN Attacks

PA1205235589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Late last night and early this morning, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] blew up a dozen power towers in various parts of the country.

The state energy company, CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission], reported that two primary and two secondary power lines were knocked out of service as a result of the guerrilla attacks. Meanwhile, CAES [Electric Light Company of El Salvador] reported several power towers had been downed in Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, Santa Ana, and San Salvador Departments. As a result of the FMLN attacks, CEL and CAES rationed electricity nationwide throughout the day.

Troops Kill Four 'Terrorists' in La Libertad

PA1005153289 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 6 May 89 pp 4, 25

[Text] Four terrorists, two of them Mexican, were killed in confrontations with Cavalry Regiment troops at San Alfredo stream on the San Ricardo farm, near Huizucar, La Libertad Department.

The clash occurred on the morning of 4 May, when the cavalry troops, under the command of Colonel Juan Carlos Carrillo, were carrying out an operation to clear the area of FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] members who have burned factories, destroyed business establishments, assaulted motorists, and committed other crimes against the civilian residents.

The unit located a group of some 30 subversives who were moving through the area; in the ensuing clash, the four terrorists were killed.

The dead Mexican terrorists were identified as Efrain Flores Mendez, born in Tlaxcala, Mexico, with a passport dated 24 February 1989, and Miguel Angel Toledo, from Arriaga, Mexico.

In addition, criminals Gladys Marina Pineda Escobar and Herber Mauricio Aguilar Lopez were identified. They were carrying their respective identity cards. At the scene of the clash, the troops found sophisticated Soviet-made war materiel, including three Soviet-made AK-4 rifles, one AK-M rifle, and one AR-15 rifle with their respective clips, and Cuban-manufactured ammunition.

In addition, a radio set with which the terrorists could intercept the Armed Forces' communications and communicate with their own units was also found. The military intelligence services are analyzing all of the materiel.

Rebel Radio on Latest Guerrilla Activities

PA1105001689

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0026 GMT on 10 May carries approximately 4 minutes of reports on the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's, FMLN, latest actions. The announcer states that on 8 May, FMLN units clashed with 2d Brigade soldiers in Santa Rita Canton, Metapan Municipality, Santa Ana Department, and wounded two soldiers.

The announcer reports that hours ago FMLN sappers blew up power transmission towers and electric poles throughout the country, especially in the eastern region, where electricity service is irregular as a result of these actions.

On 9 May, in San Francisco, Usulutan Department, FMLN militia units inflicted one casualty on the Atonal Battalion as a result of an ambush, the announcer reports.

Bombs Explode Near Belloso Battalion

PA1505125789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] Four strong explosions were heard in eastern San Salvador at approximately 0440 today. We have been informed that four explosive devices were detonated in the area between the Belloso Battalion and Air Force installations. We do not yet have any details about the damage these explosions might have caused.

Immediately after the explosions, two or three helicopters flew over the area to investigate. Air Force patrols also arrived at the site of the explosions. We do not have any other details. However, we have been told this attack on the Belloso Battalion installations, near the Air Force installations, did not cause any casualties. We have been told the explosions were apparently caused by car bombs.

Army Reports 14 FMLN-FDR Guerrillas Killed

PA1305035989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 May 89 p 36

[Text] Alegria, Usulutan Department—Military authorities reported that 14 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front [FMLN-FDR] terrorists were killed during fierce clashes with Atonal Battalion troops.

The authorities added that the fighting took place near this village while military units were carrying out an operation.

While combing the area following the fighting, the troops found 14 bodies of terrorists killed in the clash as well as the blood trails of many wounded rebels, the military said.

The Army confiscated seven AK-47, three AR-15, and five M-16 rifles, as well as much ammunition, material for manufacturing bombs, important documents, and other military hardware.

It was also reported that Erika Esmeralda Morales, 11, was killed in Berlin when FMLN-FDR terrorists attacked the city.

Guatemala

Observers on Panama Situation, U.S. Intervention

PA1405024989 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] A group of Guatemalan observers who witnessed the Panamanian elections today asked the executive branch not to recognize Manuel Noriega's government in that country, which has been overtaken by violence. The observers include representatives of the Council of the Central American Civil Society for Peace [Consejo de la Sociedad Civil Centroamericana Para la Paz], COCEPAZ. They believe Latin American countries must stop their empty talk and start taking action against the repressive Panamanian regime, which annulled the recent elections. The observers say the opposition's victory was overwhelming despite the presence of armed people at the voting tables.

Likewise, CACIF [Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations] representative Federico Pola, one of the Guatemalan observers to the Panamanian elections, said that Manuel Noriega is a man whose back is against the wall but who has a machinegun in his hands. Therefore, the Latin American countries and the EEC must exert political pressure to ensure that the opposition's victory is recognized, he said. Federico Pola also said that U.S. military intervention would wear out the imperialist country; thus, an armed intervention is not wise. However, if we do not act now, we will be guilty of extending the dictatorship, the CACIF representative said.

Furthermore, COCEPAZ President Ramiro de Leon Carpio rejected a possible U.S. intervention in Panama, where an atmosphere of terror and repression prevails. I personally reject any intervention, because a country's internal problems cannot be solved by an armed conflict between countries, the COCEPAZ president stated. This action would be condemnable, Ramiro de Leon Carpio explained, and added that the Panamanian people's only future is a civil war or the recognition of the recently elected government.

Vice President on Annulment

FL1505201889 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Guatemalan Government is very carefully studying the turn that the Panamanian political situation has taken, Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle has stated.

[Begin recording] [Carpio Nicolle] I personally think that what is happening in Panama is an outrage. The Panamanian people are suffering what we ourselves have already suffered. In my view, it is a mockery to have elections and then after the opposition candidate wins, to have these elections annulled. I believe that all of America must find a way out for the Panamanian situation. It will have to be done (?democratically).

[Reporter] Would Guatemala withdraw recognition of General Noriega's government?

[Carpio Nicolle] Well, we can't say at this time what Guatemala's position will be because a bloc of countries is discussing this. So, I believe the situation will have to be clarified next week. [end recording]

President Interviewed After Coup Attempt

PA1305191089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1239 GMT 13 May 89

[Interview with President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo by unidentified reporter in Guatemala City—date not given]

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 May (REUTER)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo voiced his trust that democracy has been consolidated in Guatemala following the coup attempt on 9 May.

Cerezo made these remarks during an interview with REUTER:

[Reporter] Were you surprised by the military movement?

[Cerezo] It was preceded by a campaign of rumors that a coup attempt was being planned. Of course, we took the necessary security measures, but it was hard to take steps not knowing exactly where the attempt would occur.

[Reporter] Did civilians participate in the attempt?

[Cerezo] Six civilians working for security have been identified. We have not yet had any information directly linking any politician. There are rumors but no evidence; however, we are seeking proof.

[Reporter] Did they make any demands?

[Cerezo] The rebels' manifesto contained some general political remarks—typical fascist statements. It talked of controlling political infiltration in military institutions and of the economic disaster—which is not true, of course. It also talked about a change in government. Weapons were seized from Colonel Cesar Ramon Quinteros, who was the leader of the operation. Quinteros had been assigned a secondary-level job. He was in Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo's graduating class. Quinteros had never supported human rights and civil liberties.

[Reporter] Do you think the problem is solved by replacing Defense Minister Gramajo?

[Cerezo] I do not think a simple change of personnel resolves profound problems. We are in serious trouble if we are persuaded by people who feel that replacing officials is the way to solve constitutional problems. We would provide the world with greater security and tranquillity if we respect the system instead of basing decisions on personal reasons.

[Reporter] Will there be a firm legal process?

[Cerezo] Last time, we had an amnesty that allowed us to adopt a flexible stance,...however, I think that this time we are going to try to introduce the necessary evidence to enforce the law as firmly as necessary.

[Reporter] Do you think the democratic process has been reinforced by the coup's failure?

[Cerezo] Much more than last time. Last time, the reaction from diverse groups took some time because we had just gone through tremendous discussions on tax reform.

[Reporter] Will talks with the guerrillas resume?

[Cerezo] That is moving on its own; they are now participating in the National Reconciliation Commission. Moreover, the talks do not solely depend on us but on the situation in Central America. If things progress in Nicaragua and El Salvador, the rebels' attitudes will change here.

[Reporter] Do you feel frustrated that despite the great support you received in the 1985 elections you have not achieved more?

[Cerezo] I do not think so. I feel we are going to leave many things on track that will transform the country. We have succeeded in devoting a great deal of attention to the neglected communities in the interior, which was our chief concern. I think that if the maturity of institutions had been greater, we would have done more. My final impression is that the reaction of the people and the Army's attitude prompts me to think we took a major step forward in consolidating democracy. I cannot say this will be the last coup attempt; there will always be fools and madmen in every process.

21 Officers Said Involved in Coup Attempt

PA1405043989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2228 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 May (EFE)—The Guatemalan Army Press Office today reported that the number of officers involved in the foiled coup attempt on Tuesday has increased to 21 but that the investigation conducted by the Military Prosecutor's Office [Auditoria de Guerra] continues.

The inquiry stage of the proceedings initiated against the officers who participated in the 9 May attempt continues, Military Prosecutor Colonel Ramon Pantaleon Palacios has reported.

EFE has learned that 15 officers had been interrogated as of Friday. Two of those involved have been reported missing. The rest of the detained have not yet been presented at the Military Court.

Despite the secrecy with which this case is being handled, it has been reported that the majority of the officers were being detained at their homes.

Jose Carlos Acevedo Chavarria, one of the counsels for the defense, today said that two of the officers who, according to the government, had also been detained, are not on any of the military bases where the coupists are being held. These two officers are Colonel Julio Cesar Padilla Gonzalez, deputy commander of the Guatemalan Air Force [FAG] Tactical Group, and Reserve Lieutenant Miguel Angel Acevedo Portillo.

Acevedo said a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of both officers has been filed at the Supreme Court of Justice.

According to Acevedo, the judge who will decide on these writs has reported that the officers' whereabouts are unknown, although they have been sought at the Guard of Honor, the Military Police, the Justo Rufino Barrios barracks, and the Mariscal Zavala Brigade. The judge has asked Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo for reports on the men's whereabouts.

Cerezo on Exchange Rate, Salvadoran Guerrillas

FL1505142089 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 4

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo has stated here that the official quetzal-dollar exchange rate, which stands at 2.70 quetzals to the dollar, will not be changed for the time being. This is an "economic strategy" matter and not a matter of an uneven balance of trade situation, he added.

The president continued: "Some sectors would like a modification of the exchange rate. I respect Federico Linares' opinion. He is good in his field, but I believe that he is now working in the private sector."

Linares, a former president of the Bank of Guatemala's Monetary Board, said today that the current exchange rate is in danger because, among other things, exports have not lived up to expectations.

The president responded by pointing out that in 1988 income from foreign exchange increased by $72 million, and that this year, in spite of everything, there has been an increase of $4 million to date, which means that the country has the reserves needed to meet its import needs of both goods and services.

The president said that the country's economic situation is reviewed periodically and that a modification of the exchange rate would be approved in the event it became extremely necessary for national interests.

It was said that the government's economic strategy does not currently include a modification of this position.

On another subject, President Cerezo said that if El Salvador disagrees with the decision to demobilize the contras it will have to state this formally at the meeting of the five Central American presidents and propose a specific plan.

"I believe," the president said, "that the Salvadoran guerrillas are also illegitimate and are acting outside of law and order, and that a plan for their demobilization should likewise be called for."

President Cerezo is scheduled to meet here tomorrow with Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani to discuss international policy, bilateral relations, and the regional peace efforts.

ORPA Attacks Quetzaltenango Installation

FL1505142989 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 May 89 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 May—The clandestine Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, has carried out a howitzer attack on the installations of the Manuel Lisandro Barillas Military Brigade, headquartered in Quetzaltenango. This information was received through an anonymous phone call and confirmed by national army sources.

Residents of areas near the base heard loud explosions early yesterday morning, but there was no immediate official announcement to confirm or deny the terrorist attack.

Shortly after 1900 yesterday, a woman phoned the media to claim the action in ORPA's name and to state that the attack had been carried out with howitzers.

Sources in the Army's Information and Press Department, DIDE, admitted that the brigade had been the target of a terrorist attack, and explained that there were no casualties.

The sources stated that opponents of the system launched two howitzer grenades of the M-79 type against the military installations, located near the National Electrification Institute in Quetzaltenango.

They acknowledged that this is the second time in the past 60 days that the ORPA harasses the Manuel Lisandro Barillas Military Brigade, which is considered one of the most strategic in the region.

* Poverty in Country Analyzed 1980-89

Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 11 Apr 89 p 17, 12 Apr 89 pp 18

[Two-part lecture by Edgar A. Pape]

[11 Apr p 17]

[Text] First, I would like to congratulate the organizers of the seminar on the "Legal and Institutional Framework for the Protection of Working Children," and the sponsoring institutions, for their concern and willingness to deal with one of the most tragic problems besetting Guatemala. I am certain that the quality of the participants will guarantee a fruitful discussion and contribution making it possible, in accordance with the program, to derive from the event recommendations aimed at alleviating the tragedy of poor children.

In fact, the issue is sensitive and critical, and it is dramatic as well. Surely each one of us, upon leaving home this morning, found on his way to the hotel some child working at household tasks, selling newspapers, snacks, or food, offering a shine, saying "I'll watch your car, mister," or else walking through the city streets begging for 5 or 10 centavos for his breakfast today. On the rural roads at present children's backs are being bent from hauling bags of coffee or loads of firewood. The cold of the plateau cools their pale cheeks as they plow, and the sun on the coast warms their arms for cutting cotton or sugarcane.

Thus, in the Guatemalan countryside we find that six out of every 10 male children are forced to enter the job market and join in unpaid family activities, three will continue their studies, and one will attend secondary school. So, the population that is the topic of your study is very large, mainly because Guatemala is a nation of young people. The average age here is 22, and 54 percent of the population is under age 18.

In Guatemala the child population between ages 10 and 18 totals approximately 2 million, and of that number 650,000 constitute the economically active population, 600,000 are employed, and 50,000 are unemployed. If we consider the fact that in the rural areas the children begin working at an earlier age, then we are talking about a population of approximately 700,000 workers who are still children. Gentlemen, this is the target population that you will analyze, and for which you will attempt to find possible solutions.

But you may wonder why I am talking about children, when the assigned topic is the state of poverty in Guatemala. Well, I wanted to begin with the particular, concrete part of the study, since when we talk about working children we are speaking of poverty per se. This is because we are not talking about the child in high school, nor the child receiving private education, who enjoys recreation and travel; we are not talking about children who play, but rather about children who work, because the working children come from poor family households subjected to analysis and completely identified within the Guatemalan socioeconomic context. Hence, when I speak of the working child I am talking about poverty, and since the issue is that precisely, I need not make any major theoretical references.

Unquestionably, if the topic were childhood or youth as a category, the first thing that we would have to recommend is to avoid making the mistake of discussing children in general, and, in particular, to avoid analyzing their problems in the abstract. But, fortunately, the problem of the working child is a concrete, historical, social issue, not an isolated issue. And it is an issue that can be treated from various angles. Naturally, we economists must help to explain the problem, not complicate it further with subjective assessments. The same thing must happen to you who, when dealing with childhood, have to touch upon economic issues: that of the foreign debt or the adjustment policies directly affecting the child's condition. And it is, in fact, on the faces of poor children that one can observe precisely what they are receiving from the society and the economy. In this regard, allow me to clarify three basic conditioning factors in the child's situation.

The Conditioning Factors of Children's Poverty

First, the child's situation is conditioned by the family and the role that it plays in society. What influences the child's condition is the opportunity that its family has, and its status with respect to society. The child's first environment is the family, and the child's condition is determined by the role that its family plays in society. In this case we are talking about the working child, that is, the child who comes from a working family, a family of peasants, wage-earners or semi-wage earners, deprived of the means of production.

Secondly, the child's situation depends on the social class to which it belongs. For example, we may think that the natural process of the child's development is first family education, then formal education: pre-school, high school, later the university, and, ultimately, entry into business employment. But here we are discussing a particular child on a particular social scale. When we talk about working children we are referring to the child without training who sets out to earn a living for itself, or its parents or relatives, and who becomes an adult far sooner than others. We are speaking of the child who suffers exploitation under conditions that are still depraved, because its results are not merely low productivity due to the child's lack of experience and qualifications, but also an accumulation of enduring negative traits which, as a result, cause a steady deterioration in the country's very development.

Children's early entry into the job market resembles a scene in which the fruit and flowers are cut before they reach maturity, and their full development is not enjoyed; rather, we are cutting short the contribution, value, and potential that they might offer the nation of the future, which could unquestionably prove more promising and productive.

Thirdly, I must admit that there are certain values in society that complicate the working child's situation further still, such as the ethnic aspect, the cultural aspect, and the aspect of "legitimate" paternity (in quotes). There is no question that the Indian child, the child who speaks only Kekchi or Cakchiquel, or the child who, because of the status of its mother who, being a woman, is also doubly exploited, is therefore born in concubinage or of an extra-marital relationship, also suffers additional injustices of an noneconomic type.

Given these elements, allow me now to characterize the poverty in our country, which is the economic and social framework in which the working child's problems are encased, so that, starting here, we may cite some criteria of the policy that would have to be adopted as part of a social change to benefit the children of Guatemala.

The Socioeconomic Profile of Poverty

In 1980, when we discussed poverty in Guatemala, we were referring to 64 percent of the population. Today, 8 years after having made the survey of households that served as the basis for the ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] project for basic necessities on the Central American isthmus, we are referring to 83 percent of the total population, as we have been told by the National Sociodemographic Survey of 1987, conducted by INE [National Institute of Statistics].

Certainly the small size of the sample or some statistical error in the determination of income may have caused the survey to find that, of this 83 percent of the population, 64 percent of the families are living in a state of extreme poverty, and the remaining 19 percent in non-extreme poverty. I, personally, do not agree with this report claiming that, in just 8 years, the poverty has increased by nearly 20 percentage points, but we could, indeed, say that, in Guatemala 75 percent of the population is living in a state of poverty, of which number 40 percent of the families rank under the critical or extreme poverty line.

Without any desire to delve deeply into the characterization of our society, we should mention certain elements explaining the state of poverty in Guatemala, which serve as a frame of reference for some indicators that we shall provide later. They are: first, the fact that the agrarian structure has been creating a process of disintegration among the peasantry, which the salaried or modern sector cannot absorb and which, therefore, comprises an increasingly impoverished mass. It is estimated that approximately 85,000 persons are entering the job market annually, and that mass of poor is more extensive in the rural areas. As a result, there is an increase in migratory work, underemployment, violence, and conflicts in the countryside.

Second, the fact that this is a dependent society, including dependence on imports of basic types of economic goods, as in the case of food imports. In fact, according to the UNDP [United Nations Development Program], nearly 30 percent of the food consumed is imported. International consultants from the World Food Program have noted that Guatemala is one of the Latin American countries receiving the most donations of food, to the point where we can afford to return it to the donor nations or use it in a dubious, inefficient manner.

Third, the fact that steady impoverishment is becoming worse, because of inflationary phenomena due to the inflexibility of the productive structure per se.

Fourth, the fact that the impoverishment has assumed a broad range of manifestations, including as an everyday occurrence marginal jobs; exaggerated, distorting growth of the informal sector; backwardness in nutrition, health, and education; both common and political violence, etc.

Given the interrelations that have occurred in the country's productive and distributive structure and organization, we must conclude that poverty is a structural evil that has become historically penetrating and exacerbated by phenomena of a cyclical type. In fact, as ECLA has indicated, the style of development typical of the country is that it has been an exclusive, elitiste concentrator, in the sense of having benefited the various strata of the population in an obviously inequitable manner, accentuating the degree of income concentration. In fact, after having grown for 30 years, at a high rate of economic expansion, in 1980 the country had more poor people than in 1950; now, as a result of the crisis, this situation has worsened to the point where 7 million Guatemalans lack sufficient income to pay the cost of their essential needs for food, health, education, housing, clothing, and basic services.

Poverty: An Increasingly Terrifying Scenario

As UNICEF so aptly notes in its 1989 report on the International Status of Children, the crises have multiplied the problems and have hampered the progress in attacking poverty. In Guatemala, 8 years of recession and crisis proved sufficient to heighten the poverty and widen the economic and social gaps by 16 percent.

According to official data, in 1980 the distribution of income showed that 10 percent of the population with large income was earning 41 percent of the total income, whereas in 1987 that same 10 percent of the population was earning 44 percent of the net monetary gains. In 1980 64 percent of the population was living in a state of poverty, and 32 percent were unable to meet their food requirements. In 1987 that population had increased to 83 percent, 64 percent of whom ranked under the extreme poverty line.

If, today, we wanted to bring the entire population to a level at which it would have the capacity to meet its minimal requirements, still maintaining the current structure of income distribution, we would have to raise the national income sixfold, something which, in itself, is unattainable. If we wanted to bring the population living in extreme poverty to the poor level, we would have to succeed, over 10 consecutive years, in making the GDP grow at an annual rate of 17 percent. But if we were more realistic, and managed to achieve economic growth of between 4 and 5 percent, we would have to wait until the year 2035, that is, another 45 years, before all Guatemalans would emerge from extreme poverty, and this, without taking any policy for income redistribution into consideration.

As you can see, perhaps international cooperation could help us greatly in this respect, if it is channeled as it should be. Perhaps we could save ourselves about 5-10 years, and maybe by the year 2030 all Guatemalans could receive the minimal diet. But even so, it would take us a long time for everyone to have education, health, potable water, or a secure roof over their heads for resting. But if the neoclassical style continues to be applied, with equal opportunities and the implementation of "neutral" policies that do not affect the distribution of income, then we shall find that there is no solution for surmounting poverty.

The Sanford Commission, of whose staff I have the honor of being a member, calculated that, from 1981 to 1985, nearly 400,000 people in the category of internal displaced persons, registered refugees, and unregistered refugees were added to the extreme poverty group, and it was estimated that 30 percent may have returned to their places of origin. According to the commission, $12 billion would be required in Central America over the next 3 years just to deal with the emergency problem of the new poor resulting from the crisis. But the region's economy would be incapable of absorbing those funds, the variables would become distorted creating superinflation.

The members were more realistic, and recommended $800 million per year, about $200 million of which would be for Guatemala.

[12 Apr p 18]

According to the World Bank, in 1981 the per capita income was $1,200, and in 1988, $900; in other words, we have declined. But the national sociodemographic survey of 1987 told us that 64 percent of the population earns less than that income. We also know that we are doing badly in terms of per capita product; because the population is growing at a constant rate of 2.9 percent, but he cumulative average economic growth during 1980-86 was negative.

The same sources tell us that only 52 percent of the population has access to potable water, and 34 percent to health services; and thatthere is a housing shortage of 700,000 dwellings. In this latter instance, we would need to build 40,000 dwellings per year just to cope with the new families being established in Guatemala annually; but the current supply, both public and private, is only 4,000 dwellings per year. In other words, the shortages are increasing.

In the economic realm, owing to the crisis we have fewer goods and services than in 1980, and we Guatemalans now have 25 percent fewer agricultural products available than in 1980. We are exporting less, with a great inclination toward imports, and we have to allocate much of the foreign currency to pay the foreign debt. Naturally, not only are the results of growth being concentrated internally and not being distributed equitably, but also many of them are being denationalized, because they have to go abroad. And furthermore, our growth pattern has been changing the structure of production negatively, because the work force has been declining in the real sectors, such as agriculture and industry, but is rising in the tertiary and services sector. This aspect is very serious, because we need our people to return to the land, to recover their industries, and to work in production plants instead of merely offering services.

What is even worse, at the same time our consumption habits are growing in a manner dissociated from our productive capacity, and the poor themselves are being dragged along in the whirlpool of conspicuous consumption. We would not be off the mark if we were to gauge the standard of living among Guatemalans by the number of radios and television sets in existence; perhaps we would manage to rank ourselves as a developed country.

In terms of public spending, although it should be admitted that the budgetary appropriations have been increased for the institutions responsible for social development, from the standpoint of that spending in relation to the national product it has obviously declined. For example, in the health area, during 1980 1.6 percent of the GDP was allocated, and in 1987, only 1.3 percent. The data may perhaps be dispassionate, but the authorities themselves have admitted that we have been about to close hospitals. Imagine closing hospitals in a world of sick persons! The same things holds true of education: the spending in 1980 was 1.8 percent, and in 1986 only 1.5 percent.

We find children among the groups most vulnerable to the crisis. The rate of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition, orphanhood, etc., is quite tragic and offensive to the human condition. The problem with children is doubly inhumane and many times more costly. The problem of not providing for them is not cyclical, but rather permanent, and more damaging than with any other group. Let's take the everyday example of our claiming that "the children are the future of Guatemala," but if there are no policies to ensure their rights and meet their needs during such a decisive phase of individual and social life, then what we are creating is a cumulative process of disadvantages from any standpoint. If we fail to provide for children we are starting a series of problems for social development. In the process of incorporating children into society, or children into the job market, social policies must be implemented that will demand a strong role for the state, a guiding role for the state. Reasons of an ethical, economic, and political nature justify the state's intervention to solve the problems of poor children.

A Program To Fulfill the Basic Necessities

From the standpoint of seeking solutions, it would appear difficult in times of crisis to be able to implement policies to alleviate poverty. Some think that the attempt to improve poor people's access to basic goods and services would mean distributing more poverty. Others stress that economic growth should continue to be the fundamental objective, and that only after growth would it be feasible to deal with the problem of providing for the poor.

The neoclassicists maintain that there would be an "automatic outpouring" of the surplus. Nevertheless, the growth rate for social inequalities and sustained economic exclusion is still greater than the economic growth per se, and the scenes of poverty are increasingly terrifying.

To be pragmatic, improved fulfillment of basic requirements demands an improvement in monetary income which, in turn, depends on employment and productivity, and on better access to ownership of the productive factors, such as land, capital, and credit. But the magnitude of the poverty in Guatemala also necessitates resorting to distributive, redistributive, and assistance policies wherein the state must play a leading role.

I would like to prove to those who think that the costs of public policies to overcome poverty are too high that there is sufficient empirical evidence in Guatemala to warrant the claim that economic growth and the market alone do not increase the income of the poor groups. Many would agree with me that the state should intervene in offering public assets in sufficient volumes. Public assets are generally for collective consumption, and their use does not reduce the amount available for others; and, besides, investment is stimulated.

As more education and health are provided, with more credit granted to the poor, enabling them to procure food, and as more housing is built with their participation, to that same extent the entire society, including the wealthiest, accrues marginal social benefits; because "external economies" are produced in the sense that there is an improvement in the market potential and purchasing power, and resources are improved. The workers become more efficient, and hence larger profits are accrued in business firms, under conditions marked by peace and development.

In other words, the market could continue to predominate, and free competition should be given an incentive; but in that context the state should receive the assistance of everyone to modernize its functions, improve its management capacity, and raise the budget to finance social spending. At the same time, the state will have to gradually contribute to a solution to the problems that lie at the very roots of poverty.

A first step aimed at implementing in-depth reforms would be to improve the assets for the poor, and since the ills lie in the rural areas, itseems to me that we should emcourage the countryside, instead of expelling people, to absorb them and generate productive employment so as to dynamize the domestic market.

The logic is simple, and the procedures difficult; but if the state improves the assets of the peasant family, providing it with land and resources, then the family would be willing to keep its children in school full-time, and would cease to use its work force so early.

In the long run, we need rural employment, and we should concern ourselves with creating civil employment, which transcends that for meresurvival. I don't believe that the programs offering food for work allow for occupational mobility in agriculture; I think that only a process of productive reorganization in the rural areas can make it possible to introduce modern activities and raise productivity in the countryside.

The peasants should assume a different role in the democratic process, but I think that they will only be willing to remove their children from the toil of exploiting the family unit when they have more control over the land and the productive resources. To be concrete, it seems to me that agrarian reform, rural development, agricultural-livestock change, or whatever the policy may be called, so long as it is aimed atraising productivity and combating inequity in the rural areas, is now, in itself, unavoidable in the country.

Just as when the Monetary Fund comes to the country and decides that the adjustment policy is unavoidable for balancing the financial variables, similarly, to combat poverty or at least prevent the social gaps from becoming intolerable, there is an urgent need to implement a policy for fulfilling the basic necessities.

We need a permanent employment program in activities that can improve irrigation, the housing supply, rural electrification, rural roads, the introduction of potable water, health centers, and primary schools, improve the small arts and crafts of the Indians, increase the coverage of urban services, etc.

If, on the other hand, we fail to assist the peasants who produce our food, the social threats will be unbearable by the end of this century. The peasants are the ones receiving the least financial support; we need a monetary and credit policy that will benefit them, and reverse the trend whereby only 10 percent of the agricultural loans are granted for growing staple grains, while the remaining 90 percent are used to finance traditional products, such as coffee and cotton.

Hence, the public sector should urgently redefine its policies and criteria for total intervention, and adopt some model to represent the poverty deficits as an instrument for planning to fulfill basic needs. For example, there are models which gauge the function of production, the components required, and the impact of the gradual surmounting of critical poverty, as well as the costs or resources that the state would have as a producer and distributor of esssential goods and services for the population. Nevertheless, all the foregoing entails much political will.

In conclusion, I would like to express my wish that the recommendations emanating from this seminar, apart from their widespread dissemination, could be conveyed, for information and greater reflection, to the sectors participating in the great national dialogue. In it, there should prevail a propitious atmosphere for dealing with this type of problem, and we should start with the premise that, at the present time, only the establishment of a social pact can guarantee the eradication of poverty in Guatemala. If a pact is achieved with minimal commitments and sacrifices on the part of the intevening economic and political participants, we could succeed, within a shorter period than estimated, perhaps by the end of this century, in eliminating the worst features of the critical poverty besetting our nation. That is the hope of all of us here present.

Honduras

Azcona Reminded of Contra Demobilization Deadline
PA1405134489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2238 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 13 May (EFE)—Several mass organizations reminded the Honduran Government today that the 90-day period to begin the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras expires 15 May.

This reminder is included in a letter delivered to the Presidential Palace; it was addressed to Honduran President Jose Azcona, who will return to the country today following a tour of Spain.

The note is signed by the People's Organization Coordinating Committee (CCOP) and several peasant, student, professional, and labor groups. [passage omitted]

The note to President Azcona stated that if the contra demobilization plan is not begun by 15 May, it will be a sign that the Honduran Government does not respect international agreements." [no opening quotation marks as received]

The document added: "The Honduran people are tired of the humiliating presence in the country of U.S. troops and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary troops."

It is also noted that the hospitals for the contras and U.S. troops "are not only better than the local state hospitals serving the Honduran people, but they also give attention only to foreign soldiers."

Central Bank President on IMF Demands
FL1205201089 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 11 May 89 p 3

[Text] The new demands the IMF is making in order to sign an agreement are unacceptable because they entail more than what Honduras can sacrifice, and would seriously endanger the current exchange rate.

The IMF delegation that is leaving the country today [as published] modified and increased its demands overnight, possibly because it paid more attention to the suggestions and interests of pressure groups than to the economic reports presented by the Honduran delegation.

In order to sign a new agreement, the IMF delegation wants our government to reduce its expenses by 150 million lempiras, increase revenues by 100 million lempiras, and increase its reserves for CETRA's [Transferable Certificate for Access to Foreign Exchange] from an average of 40 percent to 75 percent.

Gonzalo Carias Pineda, president of the Central Bank of Honduras, said: "Frankly speaking, the IMF demands are unacceptable. We do not see why the delegation, which came with a set position, modified and increased its demands after arriving in Honduras. We are not going to sign anything that would seriously jeopardize the country's economic and social stability or its currency exchange rate."

Carias said: The new IMF demands call for a careful and in-depth financial analysis by the Finance and Public Credit Ministry. We cannot simply say yes to all of these requests without having assessed the effect they might have on all levels of society.

"For no apparent reason," Carias said, the IMF had been demanding an increase of CETRA reserves to 50 percent, 10 percent more than what was officially established, and "now—due to pressure from God knows who—CETRA reserves have been set at 50 percent in the economic emergency bill!"

"Noticing this reduction of the CETRA's benefits for export activities, the IMF is now demanding 75 percent reserves. For us this is not feasible. The IMF is practically telling us to work with only 25 percent, which would only give us enough to buy petroleum and import medicine and raw materials. If we were to accept that demand, the amount of foreign exchange available to the state would be minimal," Carias pointed out.

This is one of several deadlocks in the negotiations, and as a result, the Honduran delegation has hardened its position of not accepting this IMF demand.

The Central Bank president warned: "If we give in to this demand it would weaken all of the defense mechanisms in place to prevent a readjustment of the currency exchange rate, which is precisely what the IMF is seeking. Because the government has shown that it has the flexibility to increase CETRA reserves from 40 to 50 percent, the IMF is now demanding 75 percent. If we were to accept this, it could very well become 100 percent."

"That is why," Carias explained, "when I speak of traps it is because we are being painted into a corner and the government should not permit this. We have to negotiate as gentlemen, as Hondurans, and as honest persons, but we cannot be led astray by the advice they are giving many businessmen, who are being told that this is the right path, because it is not."

Fortunately, he continued, Honduras has the technical know-how to avoid pressure from international finance organizations, and has demanded proof that the lempira has devalued as much as they claim that it has. Those who made the claim have been unable to prove it, Carias said, and he added: With figures and a highly qualified team of experts, the Central Bank has proven that the value of the lempira has dropped by only 7 percent.

Delving further into the subject, Carias said: "The problem is that the political factors that can prevent a new change in the exchange rate are not controlled by the Central Bank and they, the IMF delegation, have based their position on this fact. Many political concessions have been made, so the IMF delegation would like the Central Bank to do likewise, but it cannot."

Nevertheless, Carias continued, "eventually we are going to sign an agreement with the IMF, provided the Honduran Government can develop a clear and firm stand that will not jeopardize our economic sovereignty. I do not think it would be right to sign an agreement with political overtones, simply because someone in Washington says that Guatemala has already devalued its currency and that Honduras should follow suit. We have different economies. Honduras has withstood the pressures to devalue its currency by implementing other actions, which have been successful."

The Central Bank president clarified that there is no official pressure for international aid—be it from the World Bank, AID, or other financing organizations—to be subject to the signing of the agreement with the IMF, but "we are certainly being steered in that direction. For example, the AID will not say so officially, but whenever it has contact with the finance minister, the president of the Central Bank, or any other official, the officials are told that Honduras should sign the IMF agreement. This is not right. Political assistance is one thing, economic assistance is another, and one thing should not be confused with the other."

Concluding, Carias revealed that the Honduran Government was about to sign a new agreement with the World Bank when the IMF came along with its negotiations and prevented the signing of an agreement. The IMF has also managed to keep the other organizations from releasing funds unless the Honduras-IMF agreement is signed, "but one thing should not have anything to do with the other," Carias stressed.

Peasant Leader Speaks Out Against CETRA's

FL1505193489 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 13 May 89 p 3

[Text] The controversial CETRA's [Transferable Certificate for Access to Foreign Exchange], doomed to disappear by order of the Central Bank, have not benefited the country's peasants in any way; they have only served as instruments of speculation for a small number of exporters.

This was stated yesterday by Marcial Reyes Caballero, secretary general of one of the factions of the National Union of Peasants (UNC), who declared that the CETRA's should be banned in view of this situation.

"In the case of the peasants, the CETRA's do not favor us in any way because they have only made richer a few exporters who trade in the products that the peasants produce," he said.

He stated that while the peasants work the land to grow both traditional and nontraditional products, there is a small group of exporters who are involved in getting these products out of the country, benefiting in this way the CETRA that the Central Bank grants for purposes of export.

"The peasant is left only with the risk of their investment and in the end comes out with just a small profit, while the exporters get the dollars," Reyes Caballero added.

In view of the situation, Reyes Caballero came out in favor of the Central Bank's elimination of the CETRA's, because, he reiterated, these certificates have only helped to make a small, economically strong group even richer.

Instead of the CETRA's, he said, the Central Bank "should seek appropriate means to give incentives to production and the producers."

Nicaragua

Costa Rican President Arias Replies to Ortega

PA1105152489 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 May 89 p 10

["Text" of letter from Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to President Daniel Ortega on 4 May]

[Text] 4 May 1989

I refer to your letter of 29 April signed in Stockholm. I gladly reply, certain that it will always be possible to enrich viewpoints through varied opinions. As you know very well, calmly exchanging opinions and seeking consensus through dialogue are my most sacred convictions.

I do not share your opinion concerning the way the Nicaraguan Government is attempting to comply with the Central American Presidents' joint declaration signed in El Salvador.

It has always been the practice in my country to say openly what we think. Freedom of speech is the fundamental basis for an effective democratic way of life.

My love for peace as a necessary condition for human development led me to propose the peace plan. My conviction leads me to maintain an alert and critical attitude toward the most significant events in the Central American area, speak out against those who believe democracy in Central America can only be attained through arms, and air my opinions on what is needed to attain real and true freedom of suffrage.

Departing from the signed agreements only serves to reinforce the belief of those who think arms are a way to resolve conflicts or change governments.

When issuing this opinion, I have tried to be objective, careful, and rational. I have recognized with concern, for example, that my country has not complied with one aspect of the peace accord by not yet ratifying the Central American Parliament.

As a Central American citizen, I cannot abrogate my right of freedom of speech—this does not mean verifying the peace accords, which is the responsibility of the United Nations and the OAS.

The peace accords obligate us to exchange arms for ballot boxes. We have agreed the people's will is to be truly reflected through elections and have undertaken this so our peoples are able to enjoy freedom of speech. Because of these efforts, which we have all put forth on behalf of citizens' rights, I feel I have a right to freely say what I think.

Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez, President of Costa Rica

Ortega Cited on Europe Tour, Domestic Affairs

PM1105155589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 89 p 5

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by Mahmud Ka'wash in Athens; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ka'wash] After 10 years in power, do you think you have achieved all the objectives for which so much Nicaraguan blood has been shed?

[Ortega] I cannot claim that I have achieved all I set out to achieve. I have had to devote much of my time to defense of the revolution against the effects of the fabricated internal war in my country. After the revolution in 1979 I focused my attention on social reform, giving it priority over other matters. That had top priority and I had to tackle it before moving on to other priorities. We had to protect the regime and we fully succeeded in doing that.

I must admit that there are many things which the revolution has so far failed to find radical solutions for, especially the economic crisis. There can be no doubt that our failure is due to a continuing internal war which obviously consumes everything in a country like ours which lacks vital economic resources and which puts the emphasis on the military as well as the economic and political aspects. [passage omitted]

[Ka'wash] Is there any chance of a political settlement between your government and the contra rebels, or is the military solution your only option?

[Ortego] The door is open for them to participate effectively in the next general election, like all other Nicaraguan forces and parties in accordance with the new constitutional amendment of the electoral system. What is now required of the contras is what is required of all the people in connection with free elections, as I have said, guaranteed by observers from the United Nations, American organizations, and the European Parliament. So why the fear? What is needed is to end the country's crises before any other consideration. Let us all observe the rules of the democratic game and let power go to whoever wins the people's confidence.

[Ka'wash] We know that your European tour is the first of its kind as far as the number of states and diversity of regimes are concerned. What has been the purpose of your tour of European capitals?

[Ortega] We are after greater European participation in the search for peace in Nicaragua, to achieve peace in Nicaragua and Central America more quickly. We also look forward to European cooperation at the economic level. With European economic and political support for Nicaragua we could enhance peace and democracy in our country and in Central America. It is not true that political solutions in the hotbeds of tension are a monopoly of the superpowers. We believe that Europe has a significant and effective part to play in such solutions, as confirmed by its recent moves on the Middle East.

[Ka'wash] Have you had any understanding or response during your European tour?

[Ortega] We have felt that there is full respect for our views. I probably am not exaggerating when I say that we did not expect all that. The Europeans understand and appreciate our democratic line at home and they have expressed complete willingness to provide the economic aid we are seeking and a true desire to send observers to participate in the supervision of the next general election.

[Ka'wash] How do you assess your visit to Greece?

[Ortega] It was a successful visit because Greece supports Nicaragua and its prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, is an important world figure. [passage omitted]

It is no exaggeration to say that Prime Minister Papandreou's support for Nicaragua stems from principles and moral grounds. That is why my talks with him were very successful. That success was reflected in the Greek Government's decision to double its annual aid to Managua.

[Ka'wash] How do you view your relations with the Arab world, and what is your position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the latest developments affecting the Palestinian question following the proclamation of a Palestinian state?

[Ortega] Our relations with the Arab states are excellent and are based on mutual respect and appreciation of choices made on both sides. I do not believe that our attitude to any Arab country is negative. We appreciate the role of certain states and see it as a special role when it comes to Arab solidarity and settling internal Arab differences. So as not to be misunderstood, I will not mention any names. We support Arab unity and solidarity and respect Arab choices, and we always expect a reciprocal stance regarding our own internal choices.

As regards the Palestinian cause, our support for it is unlimited. Our consistent position is one of support for the Palestinian struggle because we believe that the Palestinian cause is a just cause. Our support dates back 10 years to the days of the Sandinista struggle. I do not conceal from you the fact that President Yasir 'Arafat is like a brother to me. We support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people endorsed by the United Nations and international charters, particularly their right to an independent state on their national soil of Palestine.

I repeat that Nicaragua is interested in positive and special relations with all Arab countries without exception and is always striving to strengthen and deepen its ties with the governments and peoples of these countries.

[Ka'wash] How do you view the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territory, which has entered its 18th month?

[Ortega] It is a test which the Arab people must pass with complete success. It reflects the ultimate heroism and rare courage of the Palestinian people just as, on the other side, it reflects maximum Israeli fascism and barbarism. The heroic Palestinian intifadah has succeeded in imposing the Arab will and in exposing the false Israeli claims to world public opinion. [passage omitted]

D'Escoto Comments

PA1205042589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 May 89 p 4

[Report by Special Correspondent in London Ernesto Aburto M.]

[Text] London—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, a member of the delegation touring Europe with President Ortega, yesterday surprised the British and European audience of the BBC program "Today"—broadcast thoroughout Europe in the morning when people are driving to work—when he said that if Prime Minister Thatcher were a Nicaraguan, "she would be a Sandinist, because she understands the interests of her fatherland and defends them."

"Nicaragua has excellent relations with world leaders who advocate justice and peace, which is what I think Mrs Thatcher believes in. Therefore, why could we not establish relations based on these principles with her and her government?" the foreign minister asked. D'Escoto said he sees Mrs Thatcher as a "very charming person because she is intelligent, and intelligent people know how to listen."

Later on, speaking to BARRICADA's special correspondent, D'Escoto said all European politicians and presidents as well as important intellectual and social figures he had met had expressed the hope the United States will adjust its foreign policy to the rules of civilized coexistence.

He pointed out what happened in Belgium—a country that has been somewhat receptive toward U.S. policy and the counterrevolutionaries—where Prime Minister Wilfried Martens went to the airport to welcome President Daniel Ortega, although this was not scheduled. D'Escoto also noted the cordiality of Belgian Foreign Minister Tindemans during the luncheon Tindemans hosted in Brussels. He also noted the positive content of the official statement issued by the Belgian Foreign Ministry supporting the Nicaraguan efforts for peace and democratization.

This presidential tour, according to D'Escoto, is a significant step toward legitimizing the Nicaraguan Revolution and Nicaragua's foreign policy. "This time, the agenda of bilateral talks was not centered around the U.S. charges," the foreign minister said, "even though it is obvious Washington was pressuring all the foreign ministries and sent many documents to influence the talks each country was going to have with us."

D'Escoto also noted that in Europe "there is a clear attitude that European countries should be respected by the United States and that the Europeans are capable of making their own decisions on foreign policy matters." "I believe these visits defeat the diplomatic plans of those who direct and finance the contras and who want to isolate us," he concluded.

H. Ortega's Position on Panama Berated

PA1205043289 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 May 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Panama's Example"]

[Text] Having received further details about Panama's elections and their results, which were overwhelmingly in favor of the opposition, we feel that it is advisable to make the following comments:

In Nicaragua and in the Ortega brothers' government, the Panamanian elections have been regarded as one more opportunity not only to defend the agenda of the drug-trafficking dictator—who is completely discredited domestically and internationally—but to defend it with nothing less than the hackneyed anti-imperialist guise.

The defense reached such an extreme that Mr Humberto Ortega, according to him, placed the country in a state of combat alert, pretending that, depending on events in Panama, our army (of some 200,000 men) would leave for that fraternal country "to liberate" it.

In Panama, scene of the events, things could not be more clear. Everyone—the Episcopal Conference, the delegation headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and countless prominent figures—says that a dirty election fraud was committed by the Noriega regime.

The reaction of some U.S. congressmen who went there has ranged from a request to declare the Torrijos-Carter Treaties invalid as long as Noriega is in power to a proposal that consideration be given to resorting to force.

We regard this last measure as exaggerated. Given our history and political experience, democracy will not be attained in our countries with marines or with the "100,000 sons of St. Louis." [as published]

What is most important is that the Panamanian people have managed to win the elections through their effort to vote and to carry out an opposition campaign and through their brave effort to reach unity.

The fact that a bullying guardsman called Noriega is blocking the people's way to peace and freedom is the least important.

Everybody knows that along with other conscientious free men in the world, Panamanians and Nicaraguans can perform miracles and prevent insolent guardsmen such as Noriega and the Ortegas from continuing to block the way to democracy in our countries.

CDN Appoints Sandinist Negotiating Commission

PA1405030989 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 89

["Text" of communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board in Managua on 11 May]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN], which is politically opposed to the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], and which comprises political parties, private enterprises, and trade unions, informs the domestic and international community of the following:

The tour of several European countries by Nicaraguan President and Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, who is also coordinator of the FSLN's political commission, has been an obvious and complete failure. During this tour, he had hoped to obtain economic and political support for his government programs and electoral and media law reforms, both of which were widely rejected by the Nicaraguan people and declared by the opposition political parties as being inconsistent, in violation of human rights, illegal, and insufficient.

We are aware of the urgency and importance of beginning a real dialogue between the government and the opposition. This may lead to a mutually satisfactory and clear explanation of the facts and a calm analysis. This will benefit the Nicaraguan people, consider the country's situation, and offer the best solutions. Clearly defined, reliable, and honest rules will allow the start of a true electoral process with sufficient guarantees of legality and openness.

The CDN has decided to appoint a negotiating commission, comprised as follows: two members from the trade union sector, two members from the private enterprise sector, and four members from the political sector. They will begin work as soon as appointed on 17 May, acting as spokesmen and empowered before the Sandinist government to bring about a true internal democratization.

This commission is open and flexible for those ideological groups and sectors not already represented by the CDN who are patriotically willing to join this negotiating team.

Issued in Managua on 11 May 1989.

Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers

Confederation of Trade Union Unity

National Confederation of Professional Associations

Constitutionalist Liberal Party

Social Democratic Party

Higher Council of Private Enteprise

Social Christian Party

Nicaraguan Conservative Party

Liberal Party

Borge Begins Tour of USSR, East Europe, FRG

PA1605031789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 May 89 p 5

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry's Public and International Relations Directorate in Managua on 15 May]

[Text] The Interior Ministry's Public and International Relations Directorate announces that Interior Minister Tomas Borge will begin a working tour of several European countries today. These countries include the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the GDR, and the FRG.

Commander Borge is accompanied by Regiment Commander Doris Tijerino, Commander Jose Figueroa, and Commander Edgard Guerrero—all Sandinist Assembly members—as well as by other Interior Ministry officials.

Issued in Managua on 15 May 1989

Interior Ministry's Public and International Relations Directorate

Borge Interviewed on Peace Process

FL1005150089 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 May 89 p 12

[Interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez by Enriqueta Cabrera in Mexico City; date not given]

[Text] [Cabrera] What is the status of the Esquipulas and San Salvador agreements? What progress has been made? Are there any differences or is there a standstill in light of a change in the Central American situation as a result of the triumph of the ultrarightist ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] in El Salvador?

[Borge] The Esquipulas and San Salvador agreements are part of a process that involves several significant elements: the military defeat of the counterrevolution, the expansion of the revolutionary movement in El Salvador, the weakening of Reagan's policy at a time of generalized repudiation of the aggression against Nicaragua, and a certain peaceful approach by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. All these elements created a situation that allowed the Central American presidents to reach those agreements.

This situation was strengthened by the void created after George Bush assumed office in the United States. The pressures on the Central American leaders eased and an opening was created that allowed for the making of certain decisions. As was quite natural, many of these decisions were aimed at compromising Nicaragua. But Nicaragua not only made the most commitments, it also did the most to encourage peace and abide by the agreements.

Nicaragua abided by the agreements within the set deadline. We promised to release the former Somozist guardsmen, which we did. We promised to amend the Electoral and Media Laws and do other things, which we also did.

[Cabrera] Will the 90-day deadline for the relocation of the contras stationed in Honduras be met?

[Borge] That has not been done and I doubt the deadline will be met.

[Cabrera] Is it possible that the United States is not politically interested in seeing these agreements fulfilled?

[Borge] The United States intervened to prevent the agreements from being fulfilled when it approved humanitarian aid for the contras. The United States has demanded that the contras remain in Honduras at least until February, at the same time as the elections in Nicaragua. They see the counterrevolution as a coercive force to pressure Nicaragua into what they call democratization.

[Cabrera] Does this represent a permanent threat to Nicaragua?

[Borge] Yes, it is a threat that, in practice, has ceased to be a threat; but, it is still a headache knowing that there are 10,000 very well-armed Somozists at the Honduran border.

[Cabrera] Do you believe that the military defeat of the contras is irreversible?

[Borge] Absolutely.

[Cabrera] Despite the $70 million in humanitarian aid approved recently by the United States?

[Borge] Even if they were given military aid they would have no way of altering the balance of forces. They are a force without a fighting morale. The contras are comatose.

[Cabrera] Regarding Contadora; yesterday we read in a local newspaper that Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana had said that Contadora had done what it set out to do when the Esquipulas agreement was signed and the Group of Eight created. Do you think that this Latin American group, Contadora, should cease to play its role in Central America?

[Borge] No. I met with Solana yesterday and explained to him that we are interested in keeping the Contadora Group alive. Contadora was born of the contradictions between this continent and the United States, and we think Contadora still has a very important role to play in this struggle; it still has a role to play in the area.

[Cabrera] Going back to the Esquipulas and San Salvador agreements, what is the outlook for these? Do you believe that there is a clear path to follow?

[Borge] It is not easy to tell. Undoubtedly the Central American presidents have their own political ideas that differ from those of the Nicaraguan revolution. That would explain the statements by Costa Rican President Arias who, without any doubt, sides with the Nicaraguan revolution's political adversaries. He defends them with a passion. These political differences help explain why the statements made by that man have a direct bearing on our country's domestic affairs.

[Cabrera] On the other hand, could the triumph of the ultrarightist ARENA in El Salvador hinder the Central American negotiation process?

[Borge] ARENA's victory heightens the internal contradictions in El Salvador, and it is possible that it will have an effect on the presidents' meeting. I cannot tell at this time, nor can I tell what kind of an effect.

[Cabrera] The release of the 2,000 former Somozist guardsmen represented a great effort on the part of Nicaragua. From my viewpoint, it is the biggest concession granted by the Sandinist revolution in the hopes of achieving peace. What does this mean for the Nicaraguan people?

[Borge] To understand the real meaning of this action, you must remember that Somoza's National Guard killed 50,000 Nicaraguans during the months prior to the fall of the dictatorship. Throughout the 50 years of the dictatorship, more than 300,000 Nicaraguans fell victim to the National Guard. It you take into consideration the fact that Nicaragua has 3 million inhabitants today, it means that more than 10 percent of the population was annihilated by the National Guard.

Those murderers, those guilty of the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans, were pardoned—and only for the sake of something bigger in our search of peace could we make the decision to give them their freedom.

[Cabrera] How have the Nicaraguan people reacted to this?

[Borge] The Nicaraguan people support the decision, but they do not like the idea of releasing the henchmen.

[Cabrera] Let us say that your people have shown a great political maturity, because in Nicaragua everyone knows the names of those murderers.

[Borge] Yes, but on the other hand, during these past few years, the former guardsmen were subject to rehabilitation and a systematic reeducation to change their way of thinking. Many have changed their way of thinking. I am speaking of several hundred who joined religious groups or sects. Some of them have been assigned pastoral duties. I believe that religious education and joining those Christian organizations contributed in a very important way to their change. Therefore, many of them do not represent a headache, risk, or threat to us.

However, among the former guardsmen who were released there are some who have hard feelings and promote crime. Those worry us.

[Cabrera] Do you think the Bush administration represents a change in U.S. policy toward Nicaragua?

[Borge] I think we can speak of a quantitative change, a slight change. But the U.S. Government keeps its aversion for Nicaragua and its revolution intact. The U.S. Government refuses to accept our existence; the fact that political circumstances do not allow it to assume the belligerent and tremendously aggressive nature taken by Reagan is something else. The United States is facing a political impossibility, but it seems that in essence it has not changed its policy toward our country.

[Cabrera] Panama is a leading Central American topic these days. With only 3 days left before the elections, the United States is increasing its pressure. It has already announced that there will be fraudulent elections, and Ambassador Davis has stated that the United States is not ruling anything out.

[Borge] This is not simple interference; it is coercion, an attempt to influence the Panamanian people's decision. It is a vulgar, crude, and grotesque way of pressuring the Panamanian people into voting the way the United States would like them to vote instead of exercising their option to elect another political alternative. The U.S. threats are based on an alleged fraud that, in turn, is based on alleged polls claiming that the opposition is in the lead. No one doubts that these polls are untrustworthy and that their main objective is to project the image of an election fraud.

[Cabrera] The Nicaraguan revolution has suffered enormously in these 8 years of war. There has been some deterioration in the health and education sectors, for example, even though considerable progress was made in these fields in the first few years of the revolution.

[Borge] I would say that there has not been any significant deterioration, but I do admit that the health and education programs have definitely come to a standstill. Of course, this standstill represents a certain degree of deterioration.

[Cabrera] And you do feel that a revolution is under way in Nicaragua today?

[Borge] Of course I do! Due to its very nature, a revolution cannot make any concessions regarding its principles. For example, we are not going to take back the land that we have given to the peasants and return it to the landowners. Things such as self-determination and respect for our sovereignty are not negotiable. The same goes for the workers' leading role as a dominant class in our revolutionary process.

[Cabrera] What role do the elections play in Nicaragua today? Is this a simple concession or...

[Borge] I believe that elections are possible in a revolutionary country, and that elections do not dilute the essence of a revolutionary process. Elections are a way to consult the people, to find out if a majority of the people think in a certain way. And of course, [in Nicaragua] the majority supports the revolution. Elections can be useful in various social systems. Just like a rifle, elections can be used for or against the people's interests. In Nicaragua, the elections will give stability and continuity to the democratic process. The majority supports the revolution; that is quite clear in Nicaragua.

[Cabrera] What is the origin of Nicaragua's economic crisis and how is it being handled?

[Borge] We have been countering inflation by readjusting, by—I would say—sharply curtailing public spending. For example, one day we decided to cut the Interior Ministry's budget by 40 percent. Actually, due to the way in which the economy is being managed, it turned out to be a reduction of more than 50 percent. That is to say, at a time when we needed a much more active ministry due to our current situation, reasons beyond our control forced us to cut back our finances. That is the same situation that other state sectors, including health and education, are facing.

[Cabrera] Nicaragua has wagered on peace in Central America. Will it continue to bet on peace? Do you think peace can be achieved?

[Borge] I believe so, I believe it can be achieved. We have had a very daring, very creative, international policy. We have virtually guided peace toward our country and Central America; we have been increasingly successful in this task, so my answer is yes. I believe it is possible for us to find this peace that Nicaraguans have been yearning for.

Ramirez Communique on Solidarity With Cerezo

PA1305004589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 4

[Communique issued by the Presidential Press and Information Directorate on 10 May in Managua]

[Text] The Presidential Information and Press Directorate reports the following to the Nicaraguan people:

Acting President Dr Sergio Ramirez this morning contacted Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to convey the Nicaraguan Government's solidarity with respect to the 10 May coup attempt. He added that the Nicaraguan Government again condemns such sinister attempts made against that country's constitutional order.

President Cerezo was grateful for those words and told Dr Ramirez that the conspiracy plotted from within the Army and carried out by extreme right-wing groups was effectively controlled.

Managua 10 May 1989, year of the 10th anniversary

Presidential Press and Information Directorate

Press, Information Directorate Issues Communique

PA1405020289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 May 89 p 5

[Communique No 18 issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 10 May 1989]

[Text] In accordance with the Electoral Law, the National Council of Political Parties (CNPP) is currently considering requests by political groups to obtain their legal status as political parties.

Therefore, in order to fully comply with Article 6 of the Electoral Law, Acting President Sergio Ramirez Mercado has decided to extend the period to submit the lists that will be used to draw up the three-name slates for the Supreme Electoral Council. In this way, the political parties that obtain legal status through CNPP resolutions will be able to participate in the process.

The end of this period will be established once the CNPP makes a decision on the requests.

Managua, 10 May 1989.

Year of the 10th Anniversary of the Revolution.

Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency.

Human Rights Spokesman on Peasants' Arrest

PA1305045089 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 89

[Report on interview with Luis Hernandez Trigueros, executive secretary of the Permanent Human Rights Commission (CPDH), by unidentifed reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission [CPDH] has denounced a new wave of arrests in the mountainous areas of Nicaragua. CPDH Executive Secretary Dr Luis Hernandez Trigueros today denounced the fact that Sandinist military forces had arrested a large number of peasants. Dr Hernandez said that the CPDH has received reports that 16 people were unjustly arrested and are currently in the dark cells of state security prisons.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] On Tuesday, 9 May, a CPDH delegation led by myself, Lino Hernandez, and Pedro Rafael Garcia, a LA PRENSA journalist from the Chontales region, went to a community called Piedra Grande, located approximately 40 km from Juigalpa. We talked with the relatives of people who have been detained, and we were able to ascertain that most of the men in the small community are under arrest. Approximately 16 people, all men and heads of households whose wives and children are completely unprotected right now, have been sent to jail. This proves that a new wave of arrests has been launched, particularly in the Chontales region, and this will increase the number of political prisoners.

We were able to talk with some political prisoners who were recently released. They told us that they had been taken to the state security prison known as Operaciones, located in Juigalpa, and that they were placed in dark cells where they could not even see their own hands. Seven prisoners were put in each cell, and conditions were so crowded that they could not even lie down. They had to sit down and hold each other's legs, given the size of each cell and the number of prisoners in each one. Some of them also told us that their heads had been beaten against the walls and that they were given no food or water for 3 or 4 days to force them to sign self-incriminating statements. It is presumed that they made self-incriminating statements because they were not allowed to read what they signed.

Furthermore, some prisoners were taken from the Chontales prison to Managua so that they could continue the work that had been carried out by the former Somozist guardsmen who had been released. Today we will send a message to the Interior Ministry, specifically to National Penitentiary System authorities, so that the people who were transferred from Chontales, and who are natives of Chontales, will be returned to their homes.

Transferring them to Managua is tantamount to denying them the right to receive visitors. We all know the current economic situation in the country and that the people cannot travel given their lack of economic resources. Also, some of the prisoners are sick—such is the case of Jose Ernesto Rocha Lopez, Carlos Manuel Rocha Lopez, Medardo Gutierrez Murillo, Candido Lopez Chavarria, Julio Ruiz Lopez, Julio Lopez Garcia, Isidro Ruiz Lopez, Julio Cesar Ruiz Lopez, Santos Giron Lopez, Raymundo Garcia Hernandez, Calixto Mairena Ubeda, Francisco Toledo Bendano, and Jose Manuel Martinez. The community is virtually all related to one another, and almost all the male members of that family are in jail.

[Reporter] You have a lecture scheduled for this weekend. Could you give us any details?

[Hernandez] The CPDH's educational activities include lectures throughout the country on human rights, teaching the people the technical aspects of human rights. This weekend we will travel to Esteli, where the CPDH and the Diriangen Foundation [not further identified] will give a series of lectures on human rights. We will discuss human rights problems in general, the international organizations working on Nicaragua's human rights cases, the international organizations' views on Nicaragua, and what can be expected in the near future concerning the development of human rights. [end recording]

Yugoslavia, Cuba Donate Food, Other Goods

PA1005152389 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 May 89 p 8

[Summary] An important donation of 180 metric tons of rice from the SFRY arrived in Nicaragua in April. The donation was made in light of the substantial losses in basic grain crops as a result of the heavy rains in Nicaragua in the last half of 1988. In addition, the first of 50 ration shipments this year of food, clothing, shoes, medical products, and sports equipment for residents of the northern Atlantic Autonomous Region has arrived in the country as part of a Cuban donation. This shipment continues the aid Cuba has granted Nicaragua since 1986, which has been worth approximately $14 million.

Panama

Further Reportage on Post-Election Reaction

Regional Rebel Movements Addressed

PA1305160489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 May 89 p 4

[Article by Euclides Fuentes Arroyo and Baltazar Renan Aizpurua from Aizpurua's "Political Arena" column: "The CIA Planned the Fraud"]

[Text] I had abstained from making an in-depth analysis of the election results and the way in which they took place to allow the public confirm with facts what we had already predicted: The Bush administration would proclaim a fraud to the entire world.

Of course there was a fraud: the one prepared by the CIA and its local agents so Washington's observers, including President Carter (who said nothing about the immoralilty of the U.S. $10 million), could appear later to say to the television cameras that Noriega was stealing the elections. This is known by Panamanians who saw how the opposition used coercion, intimidation, threats, and even how their followers were allowed to vote. [sentence as published] The millions of dollars sent by Bush contributed toward quite a few people's prostituting themselves. The order to Duque's followers nationwide not to heed the provocations was interpreted as an acceptance of the pro-Yankee slate. However, patriotic and Torrijist Panamanians voted with discipline for our national liberation; they voted for Carlos Duque, the winner and new president.

The Yankees—who ignored the "fraud" proclaimed by the opposition against "Nicky" Barletta because he was a pawn of his master George Bush and of Reagan—now prepared a fraud against Duque, gave millions of dollars to "Cuchungo" Endara, and sent their advisers so the plan would not fail. However, since they could not achieve their objectives, the world had to hear statements from senators such as Bob Graham and Connie Mack requesting military intervention. They openly confess the real intention that has encouraged them since the beginning of the destabilization campaign against Panama: abrogating the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

As soon as Carlos Duque's victory is proclaimed, thus opening a new phase in the hard struggle for the liberation of Panama, the imperialists will pressure, bribe, and maintain their sickening search for justifications to impose their interests on nations over which they think they have divine rights in line with their Manifest Destiny and their policy of hemispheric hegemony for exploitation, and they will order needy countries to revive the OAS, to reach the decision to invade Panama, and to create an inter-American army (as it was done in 1965 against the Dominican Republic) so the monstrous action they want to carry out may be accepted by the international community. They will call on the Group of Eight, on President Alan Garcia of Peru—since they cannot use the disposable Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela. They may call on Alfonsin, who has practically lost the elections in Argentina, and on others, to use them as lackeys. Perhaps only Mexico with its Estrada Doctrine will confront them. This will be the next step to be taken by the Yankee aggressor. The Yankees want to crush an entire nation; they want to destroy the spirit of independence of Panama and the other Latin American people.

In the face of this historic and true situation, there is only one road left for creating awareness among the patriotic people of the continent: asking all progressive, honest, and revolutionary forces of Latin America; all who struggle for the liberation of our nations, and all who are aware we are victims of a ferocious enemy, rapacious and genocidal imperialism, to close ranks of solidarity with Panama. Panama is the present prey, but sooner or later the United States will try to ravage the Latin American peoples who have already inflicted defeats on imperialism and have slowly but surely weakened its hegemony. Meanwhile, government leaders enslaved by the IMF tread the path of a yielding complicity that could prevent final liberation if we do not alert our suffering people.

Attention, 19 April Movement of Colombia and all the other revolutionary forces of the brotherly Colombian people; attention, Shining Path of Peru; the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador; the Cinchoneros of Honduras; clandestine revolutionaries in Costa Rica; revolutionary forces of Guatemala, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, and Brazil: the imperialist challenge has begun in Panama, and we will demonstrate here that the slogan A United People Is an Invincible People is not a bunch of empty words. The bodies of Panamanian patriots will be the platform of the heroes of true liberation. Sovereignty or death! For Panama, our lives!
Euclides Fuentes Arroyo
Baltazar Renan Aizpurua

PRD Leader Criticizes U.S. TV

PA1205205489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Nils Castro, Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] International Affairs Committee secretary and general secretary of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, has stated that transmissions over Channel 8 [U.S. Southern Command Television Network] during which U.S. officials broadcast unofficial election figures both in Spanish and English, reminds him of a Garcia Marquez novel. Castro added that if the situation continues, the same thing will soon start happening in other Latin American countries.

[Begin Castro recording] This whole thing reminds me of a Garcia Marquez novel. From the Southern Command, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [not further specified] pompously talks about elections in a Latin American country. That situation reminds me very much of the rusty armored ships in Garcia Marquez' novel "The Autumn of the Patriarch."

If we allow this situation to continue in Panama, they will soon be doing the same thing in Brazil, Guatemala, and Venezuela. [end recording]

U.S. Guard Involved in Violence

PA1205162089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 May 89 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] The bodyguard of Mr Terrence Kneebone [U.S. Embassy public affairs officer], whose last name means "a knee bone" in Spanish, was involved in the violent incidents that took place in Santa Ana Square during which terrorist commandos of the subservient ADOC [Civil Democratic Opposition Alliance] opened fire without cause against FDP (Panama Defense Forces) members, seriously wounding four of them. Mr. Knee Bone's bodyguard had been assigned to protect one of the opposition's candidates. Is this or is this not interference?

Chamber of Commerce on Annulment

PA1205145989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 May 89 p A-6

["Manifesto" issued by the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture in Panama City on 11 May]

[Text] Manifesto to The Country

In view of the serious and dramatic times the country is experiencing, the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture declares:

1. Its most vigorous condemnation of the attacks carried out by armed military and paramilitary units attached to the regime against groups of civilians who were peacefully demonstrating; and its most vigorous condemnation of the criminal physical attack against the three Panama ADOC presidential and vice presidential candidates and of the regrettable loss of life.

2. Its condemnation and rejection of the TEP's [Panama Electoral Tribunal] absurd decision to annul the 7 May elections, thereby showing disrespect for the Panamanian people's will expressed through their ballots. The Panamanian people expressed overwhelming support for the ADOC candidates in those ballots.

3. Its demand that the authorities respect the people's will. The Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture reiterates its firm stance on continued vigilance for the purpose of successfully reestablishing justice, democracy, and freedom in Panama.

Issued in Panama City on 11 May 1989
Board of Directors
[Signed] [Four illegible handwritten signatures]

People's Party Backs Annulment

PA1205160389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 May 89 pp 8, 14

[Communique issued by the Politburo of the People's Party Central Committee on 11 May in Panama City]

[Text] On the evening of 10 May, the TEP, based on its legal authority, decreed the annulment of the 7 May elections to select the president, vice presidents, legislators, corregimiento representatives, and some district councilmen.

The annulment was preceded by various anomalies in the voting. All these anomalies stemmed from the multilateral [as published] Yankee intervention that was evident on 7 May and from a U.S. plan to take advantage of the inability of the National Vote-Counting Board to give final results, because tally sheets were stolen, to justify the interventionist punitive action that will end in U.S. military occupation of Panama.

According to the count of National Vote-Counting Board, the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] candidates were leading the pro-U.S. ADOC. However, the board was unable to give the final vote count because most tally sheets were missing.

The most significant factor that deprived the election of its legitimacy was vote-buying by ADOC followers with the money the United States provided, including the $10 million President Bush provided according to the Yankee media.

The U.S. intervention posed the dilemma to our country of either accepting the results the imperialists wanted or suffering a military invasion of Panama. The annulment of these elections resolves that dilemma and places the search for a solution, without U.S. interference, in the hands of Panamanians of all ideologies. This is what the situation in Panama and Central America most needs: The United States should stop interfering.

For all the above reasons, the People's Party [PdP] approves the TEP decision to annul the 7 May elections.

It warns the Panamanian people and the whole world that despite Panama's desire to settle our domestic problems our own way, the United States is adamantly preparing other measures against our country, increasing its diverse forms of meddling by trying to fool the people and Latin America to justify its armed intervention.

The PdP denounces the Yankee imperialist plans against Panama and requests the solidarity of the world to compel Washington to accept the country's right to self-determination and to let us settle our problems.

Yankees, hands off Panama!

Politburo of the PdP Central Committee. Thursday, 11 May 1989.

Chamber of Commerce Urges Respect

PA1405000989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 May 89

[Communique issued by the Chiriqui Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture in David, Chiriqui, on 10 May 1989—recorded]

[Text] The Panamanian people's general repudiation of the brutal aggression against the citizens who peacefully demanded respect for their self-determination has compelled the Chiriqui Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture to make this statement:

1. We demand respect for the will of a peace-loving people, who expressed this will by voting on 7 May. The election results have been acknowledged and backed by the local and international communities, particularly by the loyal testimony of the Panamanian Catholic Church.

2. We repudiate the shameless and merciless actions of the leaders of armed military men and civilians, who attacked peaceful demonstrators with the regrettable and irrevocable loss of human life. We also repudiate the criminal physical attack against the members of the ADOC presidential ticket.

3. We reiterate our demand to the authorities that the Panamanian people's will, expressed at the ballot box, not be violated. We demand respect for the people's unyielding determination to have a legal government where peace with justice, freedom, and democracy can prevail.
David, 10 May 1989.
[Signed] Board of Directors of the Chiriqui Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture.

Bush, ADOC Fraud Accusation

PA1305201689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "ADOC's Fraud"]

[Text] The gringo puppets in this country, the ADOC and its whole gang, screamed and hollered there was going to be fraud in the 7 May elections. They repeated that until they were blue in the face. They went so far as to ask their followers to "watch" the polling places during the vote count.

The election fraud was no surprise; however, ADOC's own followers were the ones who carried it out. That was no surprise, because the ADOC's puppet owner himself, President Bush, stated without a hint of shame that he had given $10 million to his puppets in Panama in February. Why was the gringo president going to give ADOC $10 million if not to buy votes in the 7 May elections?

ADOC carried out the most brazen fraud in Panama's history in front of the entire world, including the "busybodies" who arrived as President Bush's "observers"—who, according to Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, came to supervise the way that $10 million or more was distributed to the Panamanian electorate.

ADOC's fraud was so brazen that in one small San Blas island, it gave its representatives $250,000 to buy votes, at $50 a vote. The $50 and $100 bills were handed out in a most nonchalant fashion—so much so that one candidate for the Authentic Panamenist Party said ADOC representatives were placing the bills in the food plates they brought to the electoral circuit.

The much-vaunted election fraud was indeed carried out. Bush carried it out with his ADOC puppets. We do not understand why the the gringo candidate is sobbing, unless it is because the plan backfired and he himself turned into a sham.

Attacks, Annulment Condemned

PA1305235589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 May 89 p A-2

[Paid advertisement by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, APEDE, dated 11 May 1989]

[Text] Manifesto to the country:

Due to the grave and delicate national situation our country is experiencing, the Panamanian Association of Business Executives:

1. Vigorously condemns the attacks of military and paramilitary groups under the control of the regime against civilian groups that were peacefully demonstrating along Panama City's Via Espana and the criminal attacks of paramilitary groups, in the presence of the forces of public order, against the president and vice president elected by the majority of the Panamanian people, in the process of which courageous Panamanians were killed and injured.

2. Rejects and condemns the arbitrary decision of the Electoral Tribunal to void the 7 May elections, because this constitutes disrespect for the will of the majority of the Panamanian people, again making evident the desire of the regime to maintain a de facto state rather than a legal state.

3. Reaffirms to the present rulers and the members of the Defense Forces that only by respecting the people's will expressed on 7 May in favor of ADOC can the peaceful reconstruction of the country and the reconciliation of the Panamanian family take place.

4. Convey to all representative segments of the country its deep rejection of the most recent events and urge them to remain united in their continued effort to establish, as quickly as possible, a democratic, free, and just government system.
The Board of Directors, acting president,
[Signed] Jose Raul Mulino.

U.S. Citizen 'Disinformation'

PA1405045189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 May 89 pp 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] A gringo whose last name is Price personally directed the disinformation campaign aimed at U.S. newsmen on Sunday, 7 May, in the Marriott Hotel lobby. He is the same person who is now at the OAS accusing us and inciting Latin American diplomats against us. This man, Price, was accompanied during the elections by two Southern Command officers who gave instructions to Gringo newsmen and to the opposition mobs that injured an ERSA [Editoria Renovacion Publishing Company, Inc] newsman. These gringo "sons of bitches" are such scoundrels that they perform several roles at once: CIA officials, spies, newsmen, diplomats, etc.

'Courage' of Dignity Battalions

PA1405130189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 May 89 p 4

[Baltazar Renan Aizpurua's "Political Arena" column: "First Grade Reading, No 2, Year 2—The People's Dignity: The Dignity Battalions," by Professor Elda Maud De Leon]

[Text] The Carter administration pinned all its hopes on the signing of the two treaties that granted Panama control over that vital waterway at the end of the century. Now we understand what a dupe Carter was. —Santa Fe Document II.

On 11 May, as we listened to the translation of a newscast on channel 8 (that gringo television in Panamanian territory), my 9-year-old nephew said: "I do not understand why the gringos are meddling in Panama's elections when we did not tell them Dukakis had won the elections. [no end quotation mark as published] I feel that elementary reasoning is what has driven many Third World countries to rebel. It is the same reasoning that created this "generational struggle," as Torrijos called the five battles for our sovereignty against the arrogance of the U.S. empire.

Panamanians, who are presently sick of the gringo meddling in our domestic affairs, got fed up last year and presented themselves at our city's garrisons asking the military for training and weapons. That is how the Dignity Batallions were born. Compatriots of all races, religions, social conditions, and economic status rallied around a single principle: sovereignty as the cornerstone to build the new building of peace, social justice, economic development, and international solidarity.

Most foreign press, radio, and television services are paid by huge U.S. capitalists, and they reported the news of electoral fraud before the elections were held. Seditious Panamanians poisoned their fellow party members with hatred and gave them weapons "to defend their victory." Mass media and seditious persons have tried to sell world opinion the idea that all of us here oppose the military and support the gringos.

On 10 May, seditious persons organized a demonstration. Although the police dispersed it, the demonstrators regrouped farther down the street. Near Santa Ana Plaza, Dignity Batallion members arrived carrying Panamanian flags and shouting nationalist slogans: One territory, one flag! You can be sure as hell the gringos will leave! Panama, yes; Yankees, no!—and others. It seems that was too much for the conscience of oligarch candidate Billy Ford, who shouted: "This damned thing is over with! That was the last straw. The battalion members, filled with justified rage, launched themselves against the injustice the oligarchs represent. Although the battalion members did not have firearms, they dispersed with their fists the demonstrators, who were carrying revolvers, pistols, and even machineguns. Fortunately, they did not use the machineguns; if they had, many Dignity Battalion members would have been killed, as well as many Panamanian children and elderly persons who live in the area.

International journalists who filmed and photographed the incident should tell the world that the unarmed people of Panama, represented by the Dignity Battalions, faced imperialism and its lackeys, as the National Institute students did in 1964. They should report the Panamanian people are ready to die for the elimination of U.S. military bases by the year 2000. They should report they had never seen a group so filled with courage moving forward despite enemy bullets. They should say the nationalist spirit of the Panamanian voluntary corps is what imbues them with high morale—something that neither the Panamanians misguided by the oligarchs nor the oligarchs and those well-paid mercenaries who accompany them have or will ever have. They should report the demonstration broke up in less than 10 minutes even though the police did not intervene. They should say the empire has to start changing its methods of domination and meddling, because in Panama, even 9-year-old children identify them as the aggressors.

Industrialists Condemn Annulment

PA1405002289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 May 89 p A-2

[Paid advertisement by the Association of Panamanian Industrialists, dated 11 May 1989]

[Text] Communique:

Taking into consideration the responsibility of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists [SIP] to its members and workers, as well as the national and international community, we hereby express our absolute and complete rejection of Decree 58, dated 10 May 1989, whereby the Electoral Tribunal annulled the popular elections of 7 May 1989. In these elections, the opposition, represented by the ADOC, won by an overwhelming majority.

It is not only unheard of, but borders on the ridiculous, for the Electoral Tribunal to offend the civic spirit of the Panamanian voters by trying to justify its decision to annul the elections as a result of irregularities committed by forces under the control and orders of the regime. Such embarrassing actions can only only bring shame and rejection for Panama abroad.

We believe there is little, but still enough, time left for the authorities to reconsider, recover their prudence, and in a demonstration of true love for the homeland, recognize and respect the popular desire clearly expressed at the polls on 7 May 1989, which gave an ample and unquestionable victory to ADOC.

Convinced that under no circumstances will the Panamanian people tolerate the annulment of the elections, we appeal to all civic, labor, and professional organizations to keep the people united in peace, justice, and freedom and to defend our right to democracy, which we are certain will have the support of the world's great democracies and civilized countries.

For the record, we also express our most vigorous protest against the brutal physical aggression committed on 10 May 1989 during a peaceful public demonstration in support of and in the presence of the three ADOC presidential slate candidates. During this demonstration, armed thugs violently injured all three elected candidates in the presence of many members of the FDP, who supported these crimes by remaining indifferent.

Board of Directors, SIP,

[Signed] Ralph de Lima

PdP's Souza on U.S. Intervention

FL1505190289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2205 GMT 13 May 89

[By NOTIMEX correspondent Luis Alberto Albarran]

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (NOTIMEX)—A major political figure said here today that if the United States promised to withdraw its troops stationed in Panama according to the Canal Treaties the Panamanian political conflict would be resolved in a single day.

Ruben Souza, leader of the People's Party [PdP], told NOTIMEX in an interview today that the PdP considers that the U.S. military incursion already is a fact and that all that is left is for the area of operations to be expanded. The PdP is a member of the progovernment COLINA.

Souza said: The military incursion is a fact; it is an illegal move that once again violates the Panama Canal treaties, in particular the treaty on the neutrality of the interoceanic waterway.

The PdP leader said: These are offensive forces engaged in a dissuasive operation. The invasion began on Panamanian territory within the U.S. military bases, so all that is left is for them to pass to the areas under Panamanian jurisdiction, Souza warned.

The goal here, Souza added, is that in Panama the United States wants to get rid of the main obstacle to its strategic permanence in the Canal area and to stabilize its rear guard in Latin America.

Souza cautioned: General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, is in fact the guarantee that the U.S. troops will withdraw in the year 2000, as stipulated in the treaties, and that they will not return.

If the United States wants to reiterate its commitment to fulfill the treaties before the international community, Souza said, then next week's OAS meeting provides the perfect occasion.

However, he continued, what the United States is seeking is to give new forms to its presence so that it will be able to intervene in Central America or in any country on the continent, and to guarantee its access to the two oceans.

Souza said that for the United States it has become of strategic importance to continue having control of the waterway. Other parties, including Japan, are currently vying for this control.

International organizations, the United Nations, and the OAS, are the only possible guarantors of international law, Souza pointed out.

Souza, leader of what is in fact the Panamanian communist party, also said that even though the recall of Ambassador Arthur Davis and the shipment of reinforcement troops to the canal area have dismantled an earlier plan aimed at setting the stage for an invasion, one cannot rule out its reinstatement.

According to the PdP leader, the plan devised by the opposition and the United States called for disturbances to begin on 10 May so that in the evening, after the victory of official candidate Carlos Duque had been proclaimed, sufficiently serious riots could be staged so as to justify an invasion.

Souza said that the annulment of the elections prevented the implementation of this plan, and the recall of Ambassador Davis reflects the failure of his team. Nevertheless, the opposition plans to keep up the pace, and the business strike announced for next week will give continuity to what is in reality a circle of death.

He added that there are still differences between the Pentagon and the White House regarding the policy toward Panama, and this explains why the arrival of reinforcement troops has coincided with a relative easening of the warlike atmosphere.

Regarding his party, Souza considered the PdP the third most important force in the progovernment coalition. He said that the U.S. troops' current mission in Panama is to smother the Panamanian national movement, which is opposed to U.S. demands worldwide.

Concluding, Souza said that the deployment of U.S. troops to Panama is part of the strategy to tighten the circle around Central America, a task that would be facilitated with a government willing to accept all U.S. conditions.

Torrijist Center Supports Noriega

PA1405011589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2345 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The Center for Torrijist Studies today issued a communique in which it states that, today more than ever, it closes ranks around General Manuel Antonio Noriega, because he has picked up General Omar Torrijos' banner and carried it forward in this confrontation.

The communique, signed by Lieutenant Jose de Jesus Martinez, analyzes the events surrounding the Panamanian elections on Sunday, 7 May, which were threatened beforehand by the United States. These included the cultural penetration by the [U.S.] radio and television stations that engaged in political and terrorist activities before, during, and after the elections, the $10 million turned over to the opposition, and the threat of an intervention if Carlos Duque triumphed.

The communique states that the elections' annulment is proper because they were fraudulent because of the reasons given above. It also states that a sizable part of the population is not afraid of the intervention and that all those who cast their ballots for Carlos Duque did it in a dignified and courageous manner that overcomes the fear of Yankee bullets.

Government 'Restructuring' Call

PA1505182489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "A Time for Great National Rectification"]

[Text] It cannot be denied that the TEP's decision to annul the 7 May elections was an act of enormous significance for the nation's future. Nor is it possible to hide the great surprise with which the local public received the decision. The repercussions of the action can only be measured in their true dimensions with the passage of time. Whether or not the TEP's decision was reasonable, we have to agree it is a fact the Panamanian people must face. Within this pragmatic framework, it is now up to the national government to take on its responsibility for shaping the future of the Republic. It will also have to face up to the internal and external consequencies of the event.

In view of the large-scale domestic interests hurt by this decree, it is logical for there to be a number of pronouncements of disagreement and discontent. In the international arena, from what we have heard, the Republic will be shunned by a large number of foreign governments. This is a high price that must be paid for the measure that was taken. The political events that took place in these annulled elections have been clearly defined by all sides. Each sector is aware of the number of votes obtained at the polls and perhaps of why they were cast as they were. There is also a clear idea of the results of these elections and of the popular support received by each of the parties composing the two coalitions contending for power. Those numbers clearly revealed the strength and weaknesses of those parties.

On one occasion, long before the elections, we dared to say that most of our parties had no philosophical platform that could strengthen them enough to stand up to the formal scrutiny of popular elections.

There is no doubt that the Panamanian people want a number of changes that could give a new tone to public affairs. The time is right to make those changes. This is an opportunity for the president of the Republic to rid himself, once and for all, of the hateful and reactionary booty-sharing system [espacios politicos] that has completely hindered the proper management of public affairs. It has only served to place incompetent and unproductive officials in public posts. The opportunity should not be wasted. A restructuring of the government apparatus is necessary. Public administration should not continue to consist of tiny Republics whose leaders pay more attention to the recommendations and orders of their parties than to their own superiors. This being the case, the president should form a team of capable, honest, and patriotic individuals. Only in this way will it be possible to cope in the harsh, difficult, and complex days that lie ahead.

Further on Perez 'Plot'

PA1505151789 Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English 14 May 89 p 6-B

[Unattributed report: "Officers Bare Venezuelan President's Plot To Overthrow Government, Seize Gen Noriega"]

[Text] Four PDF officers have accused Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez of inviting them to join in an alleged plot aimed at overthrowing the constitutional government of Panama.

The four officers were identified as Col Guillermo Wong, Chief of Intelligence (G-2) of the PDF; Lt Col Carlos Arosemena, Military Attache at the Panamanian Embassy in Argentina; Maj. Daniel Delgado of the Joint Panama Canal Commission Junta, and Capt Marco Arjona, Military Attache at the Panamanian Embassy in Colombia.

Perez' proposal was put forth originally to Capt Arjona, by an intermediary, identified as a Colombian newsman and businessman named Carlos Perez Narciso Garay, reportedly a close friend of the Venezuelan president.

Arjona, the report said, overcame his initial reaction to reject with indignation the proposal. Instead, he kept calm, returned to Panama from Bogota and reported the occurrence to his superiors.

Arjona disclosed that the Carlos Andres Perez emissary told him that if the projected conspiracy were carried out successfuly, the proposed new government would be provided considerable financial assistance, reincorporation into the Group of Eight bloc of Latin American countries, and guaranteed international diplomatic recognition.

As part of the plot Defense Commander Gen Manuel A. Noriega would be seized and turned over to the United States Government, the May 7 elections would be annuled and a Provisional Ruling Junta would be set up and formed of three public figures known as supporters of the Omar Torrijos Revolutionary Process.

Carlos Andres Perez' plan also called for the breaking up of the present Defense Forces General Staff with Col. Wong to be named as its new commander. These changes were to be carried out and organized following a model prepared by the United States and promoted here by the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), which ran against the government in the May 7 voting.

Carlos Andres Perez, the report said, emphasized that none of the opposition candidates who ran on the presidential ticket would form part of the new government. Those candidates were Guillermo Endara, and his running mates Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford.

Endara, the report said, was denounced by Carlos Andres Perez as a "discredited" politician because of his close collaboration with the United States.

Arias Calderon was in turn condemned for his support of the "interventionist policies" of the United States.

Meanwhile government candidate Carlos Duque was also ruled out as a member of the proposed government because of the "bad light" in which he is regarded by the United States.

The officers said the Venezuelan president, through his emissary, appealed to the spirit of "Torrijism" of the four, claiming that was the reason they were selected to carry out the plot.

"However," the officers pointed out, "Mr Perez failed to take into consideration that among the fundamental principles of "Torrijism" in the Panamanian military are loyalty to country, their institution and their superiors.

This motivated them to reject and denounce in indignation, the proposal and to report it immediately to Gen Noriega.

Wounded Soldiers 'Recovering'

PA1405200789 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 May 89

[From "All for the Fatherland" program]

[Text] FDP soldiers who were shot while backing up police units that were preserving order during the opposition demonstration on 10 May, which led to street violence in Santa Ana Plaza, are recovering from their bullet wounds. The following soldiers were wounded with gunfire and blunt objects during this incident: Sublieutenants Demetrio Villarreal and Octasiano Villareal, Corporals Jorge Porras and Alberto Gonzalez, and policemen Marcos Dominguez and Roberto Ramiro Sanchez. Some of them have been released from the hospital.

Santo Tomas Hospital's Drs Augusto Fabrega and Carlos Ramirez Velasquez and Dr Jose Maria Avila, director of the Social Security Metropolitan Hospital complex, talk about the condition and prognosis of Demetrio and Octasiano Villareal as of yesterday.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified doctor] Villareal's [not further identified] condition is completely satisfactory. The way he is reacting shows he will recover soon. We took care of him on the afternoon of 10 May; there were two bullet wounds in his abdomen and thorax. The bullet that injured his thorax entered from his left shoulder. He fortunately did not have any other injuries in his neck; however, he was seriously injured in the abdomen. His small intestines were perforated, so we had to extract portions that were ruptured as a result of the bullet wound. He has responded satisfactorily. We are optimistic about his current condition. We are completely certain he will leave in few days.

[Second doctor] So far, he [not further identified] has responded very satisfactorily. He is recovering very well from the operation on his left hemithorax. At present, the only problem is the pain he is experiencing because of a bullet lodged in his shoulder. We are planning to remove the bullet next Tuesday. Other than that, his recovery is normal. If his condition remains steady, we hope to release him by the end of next week. [end recording]

Role of Dignity Battalions

PA1405230389 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 May 89

["Opinion" commentary: "For Panama, Our Lives" from the "All for the Fatherland" program]

[Text] Today, when there are ominous threats against the very existence of the Panamanian nation, the common man becomes highly important: Indians, Mestizos, and blacks from the streets and alleys, neighborhoods and housing projects, villages and towns, and heartland and mountains will, at the right moment—and not a minute too early or late—brandish weapons to preserve the prestige and dignity of our attacked, invaded, and sullied native soil.

That combination of man, freedom cry, and armed rejection of the enemy is reflected in a patriotic symbol, which, despite adverse plans to tarnish its nationalistic and apolitical image, is reinforced: the ironclad determination of a people ready to defend shoulder to shoulder with the FDP the land where they were born—listen carefully—together with their FDP, our FDP, the FDP of the Panamanian people; we are talking about the Dignity Battalions:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We have armed the people, and these weapons will not be taken away, because they belong to the people. [end recording]

The Dignity Battalions, which are all over the national territory, represent the moral and material support of the FDP's strategy for national defense to confront foreign aggression. The level of training they received is the result of their efforts and unyielding determination to fight to the end for our threatened fatherland's integrity. As they received their rifles, their feelings as voluntary brigade members were reflected in the words of Alba Iris Castro, who told the world about why the Dignity Battalions exist:

[Begin Castro recording] Panamanian women realize that this people of lofty standards and profound moral values were not defeated yesterday and will not be defeated today or ever. This is why today you see me, a dignified and combatant woman, who does not care for beauty salons, because, at this moment, the fatherland is being threatened and interfered with and there is no time to waste on such things. We say to the fatherland: They will definitely leave in the year 2000; nobody will budge from here, damn it.

We want to say to you, friendly commander, that this Dignity Battalion is made up of men and women willing to fight yesterday, today, and always. Commander, it should be understood that we are not the Dignity Battalions; we are only a small part of them. Other members are in Curundu, El Chorillo, Santa Ana, Calidonia, San Felipe, Arraijan, Chorrera, San Miguelito; they are between Darien and Chiriqui Provinces, because, should you really need dignified people who will not budge or surrender, who will not fall on their knees—because dignity is priceless—you can be sure commander, the Torrijist hawk, that you will find us there ready to bury them one by one in Torrijos' land. [end recording]

As war drums are resounding in the White House and echoing in the area lent by Panama supposedly for the protection and defense of the canal, the Dignity Battalions remain on alert. The echoes of war drums do not scare us; quite the contrary, they fill us with determination, courage, and strength; they invigorate our patriotism and determination to give our lives for Panama.

Legislative Winners Listed

PA1505190989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 89 p A-1

[Text] Although a 10 May TEP decree announced the annulment of the 7 May elections for president, the Circuit vote-counting boards had been counting the votes for legislators. These boards had announced the names of some winning candidates for legislator.

After consulting with sectors of the opposition Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [comprising the Christian Democratic Party, PDC; Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA; and Authentic Liberal Party, LA] and progovernment National Liberation Coalition [which includes the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD; and the Labor Party, PALA], we believe it is in the public's interest to disclose the names of some of the candidates for legislators who were leading in the vote-count at the moment the elections were canceled and who had been proclaimed as winners by the circuit vote-counting boards.

Here are some of those names, but we caution that this is a strictly unofficial list:

Tomas Altamirano Duque, for Chepo	PRD
Jose Morris, for Puerto Armuelles	PRD
Edilberto Culiolis, for Darien	PRD
Calixto Silgado, for Darien	PRD
Albertina Gil, for Colon	PRD
Cesar Pardo, for Cocle	PRD
Alberto Aleman Boyd, for San Felipe	PRD
Gerardo Gonzalez, for Las Cumbres	PRD
Mario Rognoni, for Bella Vista	PRD
Lucho Gomez, for San Miguelito	PRD
Jorge Ruben Rosas, for Tole,	MOLIRENA
Arturo Vallarino, for Las Cumbres	MOLIRENA
Alonso Fernandez, for Colon	MOLIRENA
Gisela de Chung, for San Miguelito	MOLIRENA
Olimpo Saenz, for Rio Abajo	MOLIRENA
Guillermo Cochez, for San Francisco	PDC
Carlos Arellano Lennox, for Bella Vista	PDC
Domi Luis Montenegro, for Capira	PDC
Raul Ossa, for La Chorrera	PDC
Keith Holder, for Las Cumbres	PDC
Bertilio Mejia, for David	PDC
Jose Antonio Sosa, for San Felipe, Santa Ana	PDC
Francisco Artola, for Bocas del Toro	LA
Lucas Zarak, for San Felipe, Santa Ana	LA
Marco Ameglio, for Bella Vista	LA
Arnulfo Escalona, for Chitre	LA
Felix Americo Espinoza, for Bugaba	LA
Luis Huc, for Colon	LA
Otilio Miranda, for Dolega	PALA

Government Supports OAS Hearing

PA1505235189 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish
15 May 89 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has remarked that the Panamanian Government supports the OAS review of the Panamanian situation. He said, however, that the session must deal with the violations of the OAS Charter that have been committed, not with the country's internal problems, which are the exclusive domain of each country.

He said that if the OAS undertakes to review Panama's case, it must do so on the basis that Panama is faced with an imminent military aggression, that it is enduring the effects of an economic aggression, and that it is under constant attack by the United States. He said that if the OAS wants to review the elections, it should do so on the basis that the principles of the OAS Charter, of self-determination, and of noninterference in the internal affairs of another state have been violated.

Ritter noted that prior to holding any discussion on Panama's domestic political process, the OAS should discuss the way the Panamanian elections were distorted by U.S. financing, the way the United States openly intervened in Panama's elections, and all matters falling under the OAS' responsibility for settling conflicts between two states. He said, however, that a review of internal situations in a member state is beyond the OAS' mandate or capabilities.

Closed Businesses Threatened

PA1605020789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
15 May 89 pp 1, 19

[Text] Any business in this country that closes during the stoppage will be seized immediately by the workers and will be managed by the Organized Labor Movement [Movimiento Obrero Organizado], which will not allow a repetition of the past, when over 60,000 workers were dismissed following the escalation of seditious acts committed by treacherous businessmen subservient to the U.S. empire. Our slogan is the following: "Business closed, business seized," labor leaders declared yesterday, referring to the planned employers strike next Wednesday.

The labor leaders added that they will adopt all necessary measures to keep in operation those businesses closed during the strike and that those businesses will be run by the Organized Labor Movement because that organization will not allow the traitorous and treacherous oligarchy to close down businesses.

The labor leaders added that everyone knows that the defeated candidate at the recent elections, Guillermo "Cuchungo" Endara [ADOC presidential candidate], owns over 700 businesses in this country and, along with businessman [Joaquin Jose] J.J. Vallarino, has a plan to generate chaos and anarchy over the next few days.

The Organized Labor Movement spokesmen said that treacherous businessmen want to repeat their actions during the last employers strike, when they urged workers to join in their seditious plans and then fired workers without providing them with the relevant labor benefits to compensate for the losses incurred through their antigovernment actions.

'Progressive' Support for Noriega

PA1605035789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
15 May 89 p 2

[Communique from "Latin American revolutionary, anti-imperialist, and progressive" groups to the Revolutionary Panamenist Party—date and place not given]

[Text] Members of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party:

The defense of Latin America's interests has been written with the honor bestowed by the continent's patriotic dignity. This has been the case throughout history, and it will remain so until we achieve total independence. The values we have established through our struggles are lasting; they are the kind that are not negotiated or sold despite pressures, blackmail, threats, slander, traps, and danger.

The northern empire does not and never will understand the strength we find in our principles or the fact that although our countries are tiny, our morals are not weak. The empire does not understand that our love for the land of our birth, which we call our fatherland, is not fragile. On the contrary, patriotic strength led us to break the chains of Spanish colonialism through fierce struggles that over time have become sources of inspiration and learning. We will find the strength to achieve the true liberty we so desire, for which so many heroes and martyrs have lived and died, and for which great men have struggled in the recent past. Among these great men was your eternal Omar Torrijos, whose patriotism and national dignity have been upheld by the current leaders of our glorious neighbor Panama.

We see in FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega the strong, courageous, dignified, and patriotic leader our Panamanian neighbors deserve. The same can be said of Solis Palma [minister in charge of the Presidency], who took over the Presidency under difficult and risky conditions. This is how a fatherland is created and how the esteem and admiration of other peoples—especially the Latin American people—are won. We share the same continent, history, language, and religion, and we clearly understand the values of neighboring Panama, its FDP, and its leaders. Immoral U.S. pressures have further strengthened the Panamanian people's patriotic dignity and have intensified demands that the Torrijos-Carter treaties be honored.

The canal is and always will be Panamanian. Panama's territory will not be a fertile field for Yankee military bases so the United States can impose its continental domination. Your territory is Panamanian, and you have already said: Enough! You will be dominated no longer.

This is why, dear brothers, we are proud of the example you have set. We are stating our solidarity and admiration as an expression of the unity Latin America needs to confront the common enemy who has done so much damage to our countries and your people. As with all just causes, we are certain you will win! This means we will all win.

We send this message of solidarity to the Panamanian people—at a time of great difficulty caused by the U.S. aggression—through their brothers in the Revolutionary Panamenist Party led by Comrade Luis Gaspar "Toty" Suarez.

From one of the free territories on our continent, we issue this written proof of our solidarity.
Alfaro Lives, Dammit, Ecuador
Socialist Bloc, Dominican Republic
Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, Chile
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
19 April Movement, Colombia
Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation, Colombia
Tupamaros National Liberation Movement, Uruguay

MATUTINO Supports Annulment

PA1605043989 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Now Panamanians Have a Blank Page on Which To Write a New History"]

[Text] Many commentaries, some contradictory, have been made on the TEP's decision to annul the 7 May elections.

These commentaries, most of them only verbal, mainly refer to two important points. The first of these expresses the desire for the Executive Branch to take a position on the TEP's decision. The second expresses concern over what course Panama's public and private sector should take.

We believe that the TEP's decision is final, because the laws and the Constitution give the TEP full authority over the elections while, conversely, giving the Executive Branch no say in the matter. This also prevents any other branch of government from interfering in matters that are of concern only to the TEP.

The 7 May Panamanian elections are definitely null, and their annulment is not open to modification and needs no ratification from any government body.

The immediate or medium-range course of action that Panama should take is a problem that concerns all Panamanians, the government, those for and those opposed to the government, whether registered or not registered in political parties, or whether winners or losers before or after the election annulment.

This determination creates a sort of blank page on which the Panamanian people can write—through consensus—what they believe is best for the homeland's interests. The Panamanian people must be very careful not to even attempt to force others to accept partisan interests, interests that are ours or a group's alone, or to disguise them as acceptable national interests.

It is not difficult to define those interests, which are to preserve peace and to strengthen it based on the principle that peace means that we must respect other people's rights the way we demand respect for ours.

If we do not stray from this pacifist goal, if in its pursuit we are willing to forego any action or intended action that interferes with that goal, we will have established a solid foundation upon which to build all the necessary programs to achieve a more permanent, more focused, more respectable, and more promising destiny for our country.

It is worth noting that there is cause for concern over achieving agreements within and beyond the current political scene.

It is imperative that such groups attempt to reinforce their patriotism by ignoring the voices that continue to clamor for confrontation and that make intransigent, partisan demands, which often precede confrontations.

We must all contribute a little so that Panama will emerge the winner, which is all that should interest us now.

Royo Urges Opposition Acceptance

PA1505184189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1348 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Oviedo, Spain, 15 May (EFE)—Former Panamanian President Aristides Royo has urged General Noriega to "recognize the opposition's victory" in the 7 May elections.

In statements to LA HOJA DEL LUNES of Oviedo (in northern Spain), Royo said: "I sincerely believe the opposition won; moreover, all the conditions were right for that to occur."

"Although Gen Noriega and the Democratic Revolutionary Party tried to obtain the most votes possible by invoking the Torrijist spirit and trying to establish a contest between nationalism and a kind of servilism on the part of the opposition, that strategy was unsuccessful," Royo said.

In Royo's opinion, "the polls favored the opposition, and most of the Panamanian people were inclined toward a change."

The former president expressed "concern" and "indignation" over the attacks on the opposition candidates. "It is grievous to be a Panamanian and see two sectors confronting each other in a country that has such a peaceful tradition. I am ashamed," he said.

Royo feels Gen Noriega is entirely to blame, "for three reasons: He is in command as Panama's strongman; the government revolves around him; and the elections were actually a pro- or anti-Noriega plebiscite."

As one way of resolving the present situation, Royo thinks Noriega should admit to the opposition that it won and reach an agreement with the them that would allow him to remain in Panama.

"International opinion is important," Royo said, "and if the lives of Panamanians are to be imperiled, I would be in favor of having UN peace-keeping forces to preserve peace and security."

Royo, who is married to a Spaniard, justified his absence from Panama during the election process: "Although I am certain that nothing would have happened to me, my family advised me not to go, and I myself believed this was not the right time to be there."

Government Organizes Celebration

PA1505175289 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Panama City—Several hundred Panamanians yesterday attended a party with music provided by a Cuban group. The party, held at Panama City's causeway, was organized by official sectors for the purpose, among others, of showing that the country's situation is normal.

Catholic Church Criticized

PA1605023189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 15 May 89

[From the "Panama, Homeland, and Women" program sponsored by the Women's Single Front Against Aggression with Eneida Lawson, Irasema de Ahumada, and Zelideth Maritza Rosales]

[Excerpts] [Rosales] Listeners, we have taken special notice of reports to the effect that the ADOC will take its struggle to the church. In other words, it will take politics to the church. It seems to us that is not the church's role. We understand that when someone studies for the priesthood, it is like any other profession, such as being a doctor, teacher, architect, engineer; in other words, they receive certain training and must study theology and other subjects. If they pass their exams, they become priests. In other words, priests are not just born to the job; it is like any other profession. When they study to become priests, however, they study how to take the word of God to the people, not how to take hatred to the people.

A church pulpit must preach the word of God—this is why the church was created and why the faithful go to church, to listen to the word of God. The word of God can never be replaced with vengeance. The word of God can never be injustice; the word of God is love thy neighbor. That is what the churches should be advocating: Love, not hate, thy neighbor. When a church stops preaching the word of God to preach hatred, then we are confronted with the church of the devil. In other words, we are now being confronted with the anti-Christ. The church is preaching against everything for which the church was established: Love thy neighbor, and above all, do as you would be done by.

Therefore, we are particularly surprised that the church, rather than being a pulpit from which the word of God is spread, has become a theater for those who go there not because they believe in God or feel a need to be in touch with God, but to stage a show so that the international press will film their actions, especially all that phony crying and shouting. There were no cries, tears, or prayers for the four poor, humble Panamanian soldiers who were shot by those who are now beating their chests in church, asking for justice. Justice for whom? That is the question: Justice for whom? There is no real substance to their charges, and that is why their vocabularies consist of two words: Fraud and justice. They do not speak about anything else.

In today's edition of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, there is a picture of these people entering a church as if it were the Union Club. They were greeted with applause in the church of God, where one should go to pray and to worship God, not human beings. They looked like they were worshipping the golden calf.

It is sad that the Catholic Church allows itself to be used like this. But we are not surprised, because the man at the head of the Catholic Church is not a Panamanian. The majority of priests in churches in oligarchic neighborhoods are not Panamanians but foreigners who are calling for a confrontation and bloodshed. Panamanian churchmen have been demoted or transferred to very remote places to make room for foreigners. The man in charge of the church [Archbishop Marcos Gregorio Mc Grath] is a foreigner; he is a U.S. citizen. We should not fool ourselves. He, of course, then appoints foreigners, who have no special rights in Panama, not even because they wear clerical collars. If they talk about politics as men, then they must receive an answer as men. They cannot use the excuse that they are protected by their clerical collars and that therefore they cannot be criticized.

The clergy cannot be criticized when they are preaching the word of God, which is why they have their church. But the moment they use the church and the pulpit as politicians, then they will have to answer as politicians. They are nobodies. As foreigners, they have no right to speak on Panamanian territory and to urge the Panamanian people to confront each other and spill their blood. That is not the priests' job, and that is not for what they were trained.

[Lawson] Yes, Zelideth, ADOC is taking its struggle to the churches—as you have just said—and this really does not surprise us. It does worry us, however, that the church is not warning churchgoers that they should not allow themselves to be manipulated or to take to the streets for a confrontation. The church is not criticizing the aggression the people are enduring today from that colossus of the north; if the church at least did that, we would not say anything. However, as you said, Zelideth, the church is calling for chaos. The church is calling for the country's destabilization. When we study the current situation, and when every day more U.S. troops arrive in our country, we wonder: Where is the ADOC? Where are those opposition leaders? Are they hiding?

As the Women's Single Front Against Aggression said a few days ago on this program, when the time comes, our people will take over oligarchic neighborhoods like Paitilla, Bella Vista, and El Dorado. Do not complain later.

[Ahumada] Look, Eneida, as you just said, it was irritating to listen to yesterday's church communique. The communique did not even mention the threat of a U.S. aggression against our country. It was ignored completely. The church feels there is no threat of a U.S. invasion. The church only feels that there is a class struggle here and that it must defend the interests of the Panamanian oligarchy. We are worried because throughout history, the Latin American church has been devoted to the struggle of the poor. As Zelideth just said, however, in our country Panamanian priests have been relegated to the poor neighborhoods to eat the same dirt our poor have to eat. The privileged foreign priests, however, are in the rich neighborhoods' churches. The rich give them all sorts of special privileges so these priests do not have to see the poverty in our country's humble communities. [passage omitted]

[Rosales] What are we talking about here? How can we think that the church is adopting a moderate position and is calling on the Panamanian people to avoid bloodshed? Do they think that if there is a U.S. invasion, it will be done selectively? The Americans cannot tell us apart, especially if they are on drugs. So the minute U.S. troops invade El Dorado—because that is one of the areas they are going to invade—and invade other areas, they will stop for no one. Invading armies do not stop for anyone. They are not going to be selective. If you pull out your little white flag, they will not care. Anyone can pull out a flag.

If you people in the Catholic Church are telling the people to take to the streets and shed their blood, you are doing the same thing as those who crucified Christ. You will be playing the same role. [passage omitted]

Venezuela Nonalignment Objections

PA1505201189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Harare, Zimbabwe—Panama formally objected today to the admission of Venezuela into the Nonaligned Countries Movement because it believes the Caracas government has violated the principles of nonintervention and self-determination.

A Panamanian delegate at the meeting of nonaligned experts, who are preparing for the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting scheduled for 17 May, explained it is not that Panama opposes Venezuela's joining the group, but it believes the Caracas government intervened in the internal affairs of Panama and plotted against its institutions—which has been proven.

Venezuela's admission into the Nonaligned Countries Movement had been unanimously accepted by the nonaligned coordination bureau in New York.

Panamanian sources here said the Panamanian delegation will insist that Venezuela not be accepted in the group, despite different positions adopted today by Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru at the beginning of the sessions.

The Panamanian delegation bases its arguments on recent official statements made by the Venezuelan Government regarding the 7 May elections.

Venezuela's aspirations to join the Nonaligned Countries Movement was previously obstructed for several years by Guyana, a country with which Venezuela had a border conflict at Essequibo but which has now been overcome.

The situation that has been created in view of this new confrontation in the first working day of the meeting of experts prior to the foreign ministers meeting will be reviewed today by the so-called Latin American Group of the organization.

According to Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, up until today's meeting, the movement's presidency had received no objections to Venezuela's entrance.

'Press Command' To Be Established

PA1605023789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] In order to reinforce information and dissemination activities, journalists throughout the country who identify with the struggle for national liberation have organized a press command that will begin operating today.

In the next few hours, newsmen, radio commentators, announcers, reporters, and other communications professionals will meet with the National Executive Council of the PRD.

The PRD press command plans to intensify continuous daily communications between the party and the Panamanian people. Anyone interested in belonging to this press command may register by calling 64-7143 and asking for Mrs Viena Aponte de Nunez.

Group of Eight Proposal Studied

PA1505185189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1745 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Negotiations continue in Panama. The proposal made by the Group of Eight is being studied by both parties in the conflict.

The proposal includes a transition government headed by Guillermo Endara, a government representative, and a FDP represenative. Noriega would leave the FDP, and the charges against him would be dropped, allowing him to remain in the country. New elections would be scheduled for next year.

However, the government has another proposal: Manuel Solis Palma would remain as president for 2 more years; Noriega would remain in power; and there would be a new Legislative Assembly. The opposition refuses to accept this government proposal.

Endara called for a general strike for on 17 May, the same day the OAS is scheduled to meet to discuss the Panamanian crisis.

The Catholic Church also made its views known. A Church communique, which was read during all masses in the country, condemned the annulment of the elections.

The U.S. ambassador will travel to the United States today.

Endara Urges 'Total Stoppage'

PA1505194789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1840 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by unidentified reporter on interview with "President-elect" Guillermo Endara in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] Panamanians are preparing for a 24-hour strike on 17 May to defend their votes and send a clear message to Latin American countries that will be participating that day in an OAS special meeting to discuss the fraud committed by the Panamanian dictatorship. Also, at noon they will hold protests on their streets and neighborhoods. This activity is being organized by the ADOC.

As for the climate in Panama, the city is presently very calm. All Panamanians are awaiting activities scheduled for 16 and 17 May. At noon tomorrow, they will gather in their neighborhood streets to warm up for the next day's activity.

As for the 17 May strike, Panamanian President-elect Guillermo Endara sent the following message to the Panamanian people:

[Begin recording] [Endara] Panamanian people: Everyone knows we are now living the most glorious days of the new Republic; everyone knows that what we are doing today is not for ourselves but for the sake of our sons, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; for a better Panama that Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid dreamed about; for the Panama we all love; for a free, democratic, and just Panama; and for an authentically sovereign Panama without ties or any kind of military chains.

Therefore, in my capacity of president-elect of the Republic, I urge all Panamanians to paralyze all activities in the country for 24 hours on 17 May. We want the entire world to see a paralyzed country, because, as I have always said, the world is watching us. The world is watching us and wants to help us. We want to show the world that we will paralyze the country in support of the measures the world will adopt to bring democracy and freedom here to Panama. Thus, everyone should support the stoppage; there should be a total stoppage. All Panamanians must participate as one in this paralyzation of activities.

[Reporter] What would you ask the OAS member countries that will be meeting on 17 May to discuss concerning Panama?

[Endara] We ask from Latin American countries what we have always asked from them: democratic solidarity. We ask that they apply modern diplomatic means; there are many far-reaching means. We have seen them applied recently in Nicaragua, Iran, and Iraq. Modern human and democratic solidarity actions are much more efficient and far-reaching. They were used in the past century. [as heard] We want Latin American countries to come up with ways to help our people, who are chained to a satanical military caste. We want all Latin American countries, especially the democratic ones, to express solidarity for us and help us break our chains.

[Reporter] Mr Endara, what could the Latin American countries meeting at the OAS specifically recommend for Panama?

[Endara] We have already discussed that with several presidents, but I would prefer that they voice such ideas themselves. [end recording]

'Provisional Junta' Denied

PA1505214189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 May (EFE)—Carlos Duque, leader of the government's largest political party, today denied having proposed the formation of a "provisional junta" to include himself, opposition leader Guillermo Endara, and a military man, as reported yesterday by some U.S. media.

"I have spoken to no reporter about such a proposal, let alone presented a proposal to that effect," said Duque, the government's presidential candidate in the 7 May elections, which were annulled 3 days later.

Meanwhile, one of the opposition's top leaders, Ricardo Arias Calderon, also denied the existence of the alleged initiative and reiterated that "any proposal must stem from the recognition of the 7 May election results," according to which the opposition won the elections by a wide margin.

Some U.S. media yesterday reported the existence of an alleged initiative to create the aforementioned "junta" and asserted that the plan was being promoted by Panamanian Government circles.

Arias Calderon told EFE: "If the government wants to inform us of the need for a junta aimed at an orderly transition between now and 1 September, we are willing to consider their plan," but he insisted that "we will accept nothing that substitutes for full recognition of the elections."

Arias Calderon confirmed that the opposition is willing to "sit down and negotiate with the military," but added that "any agreement with them must include the pledge that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will definitively withdraw from power as soon as possible." "Recognition of the people's will is the only way to build a democracy," Arias added.

Duque, meanwhile, said "my answer (to the country's crisis) is stated in the letter I addressed to the Panamanian people," referring to the message he issued last week as president of the PRD.

In the message, Duque proposed "dialogue, consultation, concerted efforts, and collaboration among all of our sectors that reject foreign intervention and who seek integral democratization in the country."

In addition, he rejected the violence that took place in Panama after the elections and "objected to" the annulment of the elections. Nevertheless, Duque asserted that he respects the decision of the TEP in that regard.

Gabriel Lewis Galindo, former Panamanian ambassador to Washington, today described the proposal—which he attributed to Duque—as "disrespectful."

Following the annulment of the elections, diplomats and observers have offered various theories on the country's future institutional structure, prominent among which is the possibility of holding new elections, the call for a "constituent assembly," or the establishment of a "provisional government junta."

The speculation is fueled by the fact that no official statement has been issued by any civilian or military authority, and because Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, has not been seen in public since 7 May.

Endara: Presidency 'Nonnegotiable'

PA1505235089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2311 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 15 May (DPA)—Guillermo Endara, ADOC presidential candidate, warned today that the presidency he won in the 7 May elections is completely nonnegotiable and will not be renounced. In statements to DPA, Endara added that "the elections constitute the people's mandate, and I cannot disregard the mandate of the Panamanian people."

The opposition leader will be released tomorrow from the hospital where he has been a patient since Wednesday [10 May] after being beaten by paramilitary groups during an opposition demonstration to claim the opposition's election victory and to accuse Manuel Solis Palma's government and FDP Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega of fraud.

Labor Ministry Rejects Strike

PA1605003689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2328 GMT 15 May 89

["Text" of communique issued by the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry in Panama City on 15 May]

[Text] In view of the insistent calls for an employers' work stoppage promoted by a sector of employers, the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry, MITRABS, in fulfillment of its duty, establishes the following:

1. Neither the Republic's political Constitution nor its Labor Code grant employers the right to call strikes. Businesses cannot close their doors; it is their foremost duty to effectively employ all of their workers.

2. The announced strike by businesses—which is for political purposes and is thus far removed from labor issues—challenges the Labor Code and the authorities, whose mission is to enforce the faithful and strict compliance with the laws.

3. MITRABS requests the radical employers who are promoting the strike to desist from their destabilization efforts, which are detrimental to the country and to their own businesses.

4. The MITRABS likewise invites workers to go to their places of employment to ensure that the laws are strictly obeyed.

5. This ministry, in compliance with Decree No 7 of 28 April 1989, has ordered an emergency labor plan throughout the entire country in order to implement the necessary measures to prevent the productive sector's paralysis and to vigorously apply the corresponding sanctions.

Signed, Cesar A. Martans, minister of labor and social welfare
Victor Collado, deputy minister of labor and social welfare

Regime 'Tricks' Undermining Stoppage

PA1605002689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 15 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 15 May (AFP)—The ADOC today accused General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime of carrying out "maneuvers" to weaken the "civic stoppage" the opposition has scheduled for Wednesday, 17 May.

ADOC spokesman Anel Beliz said the postponement of the new school year and the fact that public employees' salaries will be paid on Wednesday are "tricks" by the government to affect the protest.

The protest will coincide with the OAS foreign ministers meeting in Washington to discuss the Panamanian crisis, which has been worsened by the annulment of the 7 May elections by the TEP following disturbances.

Two days before the opposition strike, the Education Minister has indefinitely postponed the opening of public schools, which was scheduled for 22 May, citing as the reason "the concern expressed by many segments of the community" over the situation in Panama. The government also announced that on Wednesday it will pay the 140,000 public employees both their salaries for the 1st half of May and the pending portion of these workers' 13th-month bonus. Simultaneously, progovernment unions threatened "to immediately seize" businesses that shut down during the strike.

Beliz described these official steps as "desperate" actions that will not affect the protest. He observed that several months ago the University of Panama and other educational centers became hotbeds of protest against the government. [passage omitted]

FDP To Patrol Business Areas

PA1605023589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0158 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] FDP spokesmen confirmed today that FDP police forces will conduct surveillance and ensure security in all residential and business areas in the Republic of Panama. Police Chief Lieutenant Colonel Gerardo Garcia told Radio Nacional that compliance with constitutional and legal mandates on security and public order will be guaranteed at all times in order to maintain an atmosphere of tranquillity, which the communities deserve.

Lt Col Garcia also said that the police will protect the lives and property of all citizens throughout the nation. He urged Panamanians to obey the law and to abide by constituitonal principles in order to ensure that security and public order will prevail.

Opposition Calls for Agreement

PA1605033389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0241 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 15 May (EFE)—The Panamanian opposition today again called for an "agreement between civilians and the military" to put an end to the crisis afflicting the country following the annulment of the 7 May elections. The opposition said that it has not received a response from the government or from the FDP.

Guillermo Ford, second vice presidential candidate of the ADOC, said today that thus far officials "have not contacted" them, despite the opposition's "willingness" to seek and to facilitate the talks.

According to Ford, "an agreement with the military must establish the date on which FDP Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega will leave" the military command.

In remarks to the press, Ford ruled out the participation of the U.S. Government in a possible dialogue between the opposition and the military. Ford said that the talks "will not be held behind the people's backs."

Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and Gen Noriega have made no statements or appeared in public since the time prior to the elections. [sentence as received] Solis Palma was seen at a Panama City hotel on Sunday and, according to an FDP officer, Noriega is in the country's interior.

Asked what he expects from the OAS meeting on Wednesday in Washington to discuss the Panamanian crisis, Ford said: "Any democracy that wants to claim that it is in fact a democracy must strongly reject a dictatorship as repressive as Noriega's." [passage omitted]

Nonaligned Meeting Delegation Appointed

PA1305041689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1118 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] The Executive Branch has issued decree number 74 of 11 May 1989, which modifies decree number 57 of 11 April 1989. The new decree appoints Panama's delegation to the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau in Zimbabwe from 10 to 19 May 1989.

The decree is signed by President Manuel Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter and announces the delegation: Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, who heads the delegation; Hernando Franco Munoz, Foreign Ministry director general for international organizations, conferences, and treaties; Ambassador Leonardo Kam, Panama's permanent representative to the United Nations; and Panamanian Ambassador to Yugoslavia Roko Setka.

Argentina

Menem Wins Election; Post-Election Response

Receives Electoral Majority

PY1505203089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA)—Interior Secretary Ricardo Gil Lavedra announced the closure of the provisional vote count of the general elections shortly after 1630. He stated that the FREJUPO [Justicialist Popular Unity Front] had obtained 47.36 percent of the popular vote and 310 electoral college members [out of the total of 600 members] for president and vice president.

Gil Lavedra said that the UCR [Radical Civic Union] had obtained 32.48 percent and 211 electoral college members, who will be joined by the 24 electoral college members obtained by the Independent Federalist Confederation, which obtained 4.55 percent of the votes.

The interior secretary also announced that the chamber of deputies will be formed by 127 FREJUPO legislators, 93 UCR legislators, 15 Centrist Alliance legislators, and 21 legislators of other parties.

Menem Interviewed on Victory

LD1505114789 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 15 May 89

[Telephone interview with new President Carlos Saul Menem by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] We are being told that we have a direct line to the winner of the elections in Argentina, Doctor Carlos Saul Menem. Good day, Senor Menem.

[Menem] Good day, how are you? Good day to all the listeners. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Sr Menem, how do you feel after the Justicialists' overwhelming victory over the radicals?

[Menem] Very satisfied, very happy, because above all democracy, and all that this way of life represents for the Argentine people, triumphed here. We have been the constant and permanent victims of every kind (?possible) of persecution over the last, I would say 34 years, in the Republic of Argentina. We feel very happy that the trust in this proposal of life and liberty has been renewed, and we here are proud and happy that this triumph has been achieved without any kind of excesses taking place, and (?we congratulate our trustworthy) opponents. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] With regard to relations with Spain, everyone knows that the Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, has excellent relations with the party which has now been defeated in Argentina, the Radical Party, and with the current president, Doctor Alfonsin. Political colors aside, these relations between Spain and Argentina will no doubt continue to be perfect with yourself as president of the Argentine Republic, Sr Menem?

[Menem] Yes, and not only are we going to maintain these relations, but we intend to deepen them, to make them smoother and broader. We need countries like Spain to help us to develop our enormous economic potential, to release these resources—raw materials, foodstuffs, energy resources, human resources—and in order to do this, these kinds of relations with countries such as Spain are fundamental. [passage omitted] Now we can negotiate for Spain and Argentina - not Spain and the Justicialist Party, or the Justicialist Party of Popular Unity [Frente Justicialista de Unidad Popular] of Don Carlos Menem—but for Spain and Argentina to be able to step up economic relations, trading relations, cultural relations, and of course, political relations.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] There are many problems—$62 billion [currency not specified] in external debts, galloping inflation, many social problems—a really difficult inheritance for the Justicialists, whom you now represent as the new president of the nation.

[Menem] Yes, indeed, but you—(?to express myself more clearly)—have lengthy experience in this field. Here we are thinking about drawing up pacts, which (?have already begun to put into effect) [words indistinct], pacts between the forces of production, of labor, and of the national government, similar to the Moncloa pacts, but raised to the status of a law. There is no other possibility (?for overcoming this business) which is very hard, very arduous. We are aware of the inheritance which we are receiving, but Argentina is a viable country. Argentina is not a poor country, but an impoverished country. Starting out from this diagnosis and taking into account the potential to which I referred, I have no doubt that we are going to get out of this mess, this real jam we are in at the moment.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Don Carlos Saul Menem, Dr Menem, the new president of the Republic of Argentina, many thanks for having answered RNE's telephone call for the Spain at Eight program. It is really an honor for me to be the first Spanish journalist to say thank you and (?to wish you well) from Spain.

[Menem] Thank you and goodbye.

Cabinet Resignations Submitted

PY1605113289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1028 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (NA)—Due to the defeat of the Radicals [Radical Civic Union] in Sunday's elections, all members of the cabinet have submitted their resignations through Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

This was revealed by Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli in remarks to Radio Continental. Tonelli also stated that Alfonsin will evaluate the resignations this morning during a meeting of the cabinet that will be held at Government House.

President-elect on Transition

PY1505223289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2022 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] La Rioja, 15 May (TELAM)—Virtual President-elect Carlos Menem has emphasized the need to reach an agreement with the current administration regarding "worrysome issues," among which he mentioned: "the salaries of workers, the situation of the provinces, and the problems that face small- and medium-sized enterprises."

Menem forecast that "the markets will quiet down in the near future" because "the uncertainty is over. Everyone knows who the next Argentine president will be, and I have sent out clear messages. I have told the farmers to sow; I have told the producers to produce; I have told everyone to carry on with their work in peace, in this new phase for Argentina."

Today Menem met with the six journalists who followed him during his campaign throught the country and told them that "it has been said that the transition should take place as smoothly as possible. Therefore, Justicialist Party teams will maintain permanent contact with government officials to receive information and get a feel for each specific issue."

As to the possibility of meeting with President Alfonsin, Menem answered: "I will have no problem whatsoever with talking to the president whenever necessary." He added: "All he will have to do is summon us."

Asked about the composition of the cabinet that will accompany him during his term in office, Menem answered that he is working on the subject and that "the first names will be released in about 1 month." He did not rule out that Armando Cavalieri, Ruben Cardozo, Italo Luder, and Raul Matera could be part of the new cabinet.

"We will implement our government program through measures that we will start enacting on 10 December [the presidential inauguration date]," Menem said. He added: "There is only one way to go about a transition: fluent, constant, permanent dialogue with government officials."

Menem emphasized the important role that the Buenos Aires electoral district played in the election and said that the governor of Buenos Aires Provinces "is part of my plans if he is willing to give up his governorship to become a minister." However, he did make it clear that "this is not a formal offer to Cafiero."

Menem indicated that on Thursday, 18 May he will reassume his post of governor of La Rioja Province after a leave of absence for the presidential campaign.

Early Power Turn Over Suggested

PY1505211789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2005 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA)—Leopoldo Moreau, president of the chamber of deputies and chairman of the Buenos Aires Province branch of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], today released a statement to the effect that the possibility of an early turn over of power to president-elect Carlos Saul Menem "must be studied."

Moreau added that "anything that can help strengthen democracy and constitutional order should not be rejected outright."

In his declaration Moreau indicated that the appropriate forum for discussing this possibility is "the National Congress, the place where political agreements are reached."

Alfonsin Returns From Rodriguez Inauguration

PY1505225289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2222 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA)—President Raul Alfonsin arrived at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport at 1915 [2215 GMT] today. He returned from Paraguay where he attended the inauguration of that country's new p resident, Andres Rodriguez.

Alfonsin went to the Olivios Residence, where he will possibly meet with some of this ministers. Other reports, however, indicated that the meeting will not take place.

* Army Factions Ready To Defend Menem Victory

33480160a Buenos Aires EL PERIODISTA in Spanish 6 Apr 89 p 8

[Article by Daniel R. Vila]

[Text] The army faction which follows the leadership of Aldo Rico and Mohamed Ali Seineldin has decided to present itself as "the guarantor of the people's will" in case Carlos Menem, the candidate of the Justicialist Party, does not obtain an absolute majority in the Electoral College. Its strategy would consist of consolidating its own forces, transferring its internal enemies, and conditioning the next civilian government—which it supposes will be dominated by Peronists—by imposing its own program. To do this, it can count on important elements of support within Menem's entourage.

On 27 February six reporters belonging to different elements of the news media in Buenos Aires were called to a military base in Greater Buenos Aires to attend an unusual press conference where they were informed of "the intimate thoughts of Aldo Rico." There the reporters had the opportunity to talk for 3 hours with a person who, according to the morning newspaper LA NACION, "knows Rico's ideas better than anyone. He asked that he not be identified and that the place at which the meeting was held should not be mentioned because it could be dangerous for him."

The mysterious spokesman, after making the point that the personal situation of Rico and Mohamed Ali Seineldin could be resolved "by political means but after the elections," announced that the lieutenant colonel "will vote for Carlos Menem" on 14 May, confirming his support for Peronism which he had already made clear in 1983. He warned about the possibility of a liberal coup d'etat in case the justicialist candidate should win in the forthcoming elections, emphasizing that the "carapintada" [military extremists]—as he called them—were ready to deal with such a development.

The continuing contacts between Menem's entourage and the army rebels of Holy Week, Monte Caseros, and Villa Martelli were an open secret in the tight little political world, which ignored the unconvincing denials and the anger of the candidate when he was asked about the matter. However, until now the extremist army leaders had never explicitly announced their support for Peronism. Nevertheless, this development should not have been surprising, taking into account the fact that the armed forces constitute one of the three pillars on which is based the doctrine developed by Juan Peron. The concept of a "national army" confronting a "liberal and extremist army" has an irresistible attraction for the supporters of this idea.

However, it is only on the basis of a naive view of reality that it could be asserted that the offensive has as its only objective ensuring the triumph of the candidate from La Rioja. In reality the psychological effort made in the last few weeks by the rebel elements is aimed at securing the replacement of senior army leaders not amenable to their influence. (Among other figures they mention Generals Martin Balza, Alfredo Arrillaga, and Osvaldo Cordoba.) This would break the present balance of forces which General Francisco Gassino, chief of staff of the army, is trying to maintain. The strategy of the "carapintada" would reportedly focus on returning to active duty in combat positions. This would ensure that they would have considerable firepower in case of possible clashes and could pose as effective guarantors of "the people's will," should it turn out that Menem does not obtain the necessary majority to be chosen by the Electoral College and the radical Eduardo Angeloz succeeds in making the alliances necessary to be elected.

The rebel officers are trying to condition the next civilian government—which they suppose will be Peronist dominated—and impose on it their own program. To do this, they are counting on extremist allies to surround the justicialist candidate. They reportedly have even brought their proposals to Roberto Dromi, Menem's official spokesman, through Colonel Florentino Diaz Loza, one of the men closest to Seineldin.

Sinister Plot

EL INFORMADOR PUBLICO, an obliging weekly and semi-official spokesman of the military extremists, is moving in this direction. It published an alleged "terrorist plan" supposedly drafted by "the MTP [All for the Fatherland Movement], the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army], and the Radical Coordinating Committee," which was discovered by "nationalist" officers and immediately transmitted to Menem.

The plan reportedly will begin with an assassination attempt against the justicialist candidate which would justify another and subsequent attack against Angeloz and which would allegedly be attributed to groups supporting Rico and Seineldin. Then reprisals would be unleashed against General Isidro Caceres and Seineldin, accompanied by riots such as the one which was frustrated at La Tablada barracks. The reaction of the Peronists to an assassination attempt against Menem would serve as an excuse for the government to imprison the principal leaders of that party, decree a state of siege, and suspend the elections.

The publication has reproduced the alleged answer of the governor from La Rioja to his deeply concerned friends: "The attack against me and the one against Caceres look logical to me, but the one against Pocho Angeloz makes no sense."

Taking pride in a singular form of cunning the rebel officers reportedly replied as follows: "The assassinations of Caceres and Seineldin mean the elimination of the most significant leaders of the military resistance to the government. When the leaders of the Peronist movement are in prison, the way would be open for the reformers to turn over total control of the structure of the Justicialist Party." Finally, "without Angeloz at the center of things the old guard in control of the party apparatus could designate Caputo as presidential candidate and thus ensure the continuity of the social democratic program in Argentina."

However, psychological action is not being handled by merely relying on rumors and keen perceptions which the media supporting this movement is used to publishing. The offensive includes the periodic appearance of the principal leaders of the "carapintada", in order to apply public pressure for the satisfaction of their claims. A box on the front page of PAGINA 12 published on 26 March partially reproduces the report which the weekly ESQUIU carried on Brigadier General Heriberto Auel. In the article there is emphasis on the need for a law against subversion, since, "if there is an act of aggression against the state, the logical thing would be for the state to defend itself through the use of juridical weapons." The proposed solution "should establish organizations responsible for detecting the processes of undesirable transculturization." This is an obvious reference to "gramscismo" [an ultra-rightist philosophy based on the ideas of Antonio Gramsci], an obsession of the men in uniform. As if things had not been made clear, General Auel broadened his thesis: "I am not talking about an internal or external conflict," he emphasized, "because it is absolutely pointless. There are two kinds of aggression: direct and indirect. The former is the classic type: wearing uniforms, a rosette in the buttonhole, tanks, submarines, and aircraft. Indirect aggression is what all strategies make use of to achieve their objectives. It is of the cultural, economic, psychological, political, and ideological type."

Another tactic which these polished figures have decided to make use of, in the interest of the efficiency of their campaign, is the consolidation of their own forces. There is no other meaning to the letter which Aldo Rico sent to Mohamed Seineldin, in which he suggested that the differences which might have existed between them are now overtaken by events and placed himself under the colonel's orders "for whatever may be necessary."

In this context the Gassino-Menem meeting looks like an attempt to whitewash the Peronist candidate, who is not prepared to risk everything on a single card. He is trying to calm down the liberal element in the army, which is worried about his contacts with the extremists, some of whom reportedly have been assigned to his own wife, to judge from the charge made by Cesar Jaroslavsky, the Radical Party deputy.

This friendly conversation between the justicialist leader and a senior military officer does not imply a cooling in the relations between Menem and the "carapintada." This is shown by the recent inclusion of retired General Fausto Gonzalez in the defense team of the justicialist candidate which is operating under the Study Foundation for a Growing Argentina (FEPAC). General Gonzalez, who acted as assistant chief of staff of the army during the early period of service as chief of staff of General Jose Dante Caridi, had to be relieved from active duty for his close association with the rebels of the Holy Week uprising.

* Future Political Leaders on Candidates

33480160d Buenos Aires EL PERIODISTA in Spanish 13 Apr 89 pp 16-17

[Interview with Carlos Raimundi, Juan Pablo Cafiero, and Santiago Lozano, candidates for Congress in the May 1989 elections, by Myrna Leal and Maria Rosa Gomez; date and place not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] They were born with TV and were attending elementary school or were in the first years of secondary school during the events in France in May 1968. Carlos Raimundi (UCR) [Radical Civic Union] is 31; Juan Pablo Cafiero (PJ) [Justicialist Party] is 35; and Santiago Lozano (UCeDe) [Union of the Democratic Center] is 29. They are members of the new political generation which will enter Parliament after the elections of 14 May. They were brought together by EL PERIODISTA to discuss those aspects of the present situation which they wish to change.

[EL PERIODISTA] Do you feel that you can identify with your respective presidential candidates and the speeches which they make?

[Cafiero] The justicial movement feels a complete identification with its candidate, because it is an internally democratic force. That process of placing things in their right place ensured that Dr Carlos Menem would be chosen as candidate. Regarding his speeches, it happens that Peronism has a richness of expression which summarizes what many elements of the community think. In Argentina a social conflict is going on, and Peronism is becoming the spokesman of that conflict. This situation ensures that there are many points of view expressed on concrete developments.

[Lozano] We are very satisfied with our candidate. He's not the most sympathetic, he doesn't have a heavy beard, he doesn't have bangs, and he doesn't say pretty things. However, we know that he would be the best president because of his capabilities and his experience.

[Raimundi] There are no ideal candidates unless they are real people and depend on a consensus both within and outside the party. The candidate does not emerge voluntarily but rather from historical stages and from a process of ripening political forces. The important thing is to preserve room for internal discussion so that the candidate sticks closely to the party platform.

[EL PERIODISTA] What do you think of the aggressive tone of the elections campaign?

[Lozano] We need to lose our fear of quibbling. What is happening is that reporters pay the greatest attention to verbal attacks. As a result, the people understand that more clearly. I do not think that this situation is bad. Everyone has his own style. You have to take it with less concern and be selective so that the debate takes place on the issues. In the United States the campaign was characterized by being very aggressive and not because it placed the system in danger.

[Raimundi] I wish to point out that the candidates of the UCR have not descended to personal insults or calumnies. They have lowered the noise level and raised the tone of the issues. I am not saying that no one is clean in Argentine politics but just that now the mere fact of pointing out contradictions, when it is proper to do so, is magnified and called an insult. It is not improper for me to say that I do not want someone as president who interprets things by using such a great number of contradictions. On the other hand, I agree that what has to be discussed are the issues.

[Cafiero] In the previous campaign there were also many high voltage statements, and some criminal charges were even presented in court. I do not think that there should not be aggressive behavior in the campaign. I believe in a campaign for its positive elements, because the people remember the past and are going to make up their own minds. Now, if we are talking about contradictions, I could mention those who are considered champions of public freedom in Argentina. I can remember what Dr Raul Alfonsin said at Ferro racecourse in 1983 and how the problem of retired people or housing was going to be resolved. And what has happened? There has been an inflation of 100,000 percent during the past 6 years, and there has been no self-criticism of what was not done and why it was not done.

[EL PERIODISTA] Is there a resurrection of liberalism going on?

[Cafiero] We want a state with a leadership role in the economy. Therefore, we call the present economic policy "liberal," in the sense that the state is not doing its duty. However, we criticize the state for its excessive tendency to issue regulations, for its bureaucratic procedures, and because it continues to change the rules of the game. We believe in the legitimacy of the activity of the state, based on a popular consensus.

[Lozano] The failure of socialism in the world has revitalized certain concepts such as democratic capitalism and private initiative, and now we claim that such things are factors of progress. I think that the two largest parties have entered into a process of rational debate over certain matters. It is not important to me whether, due to problems of identity, they do not wish to say that they are liberals.

[Raimundi] I feel much closer to the position of justicialism than to that of liberalism, regarding the role of the state. We radicals have always defended the full and free exercise of individual rights, but we have never based it on economic freedom. The progress of a people is not as Adam Smith and Lozano thought, "The sum of individual progress as a function of the laws of the market," because the market is often controlled by those who are economically the most powerful. The legitimacy of the state lies in the defense of the collective interest. What distinguishes private enterprise is the managerial profits of those who direct it. We are talking about different philosophies.

[Lozano] Carlos, you know very little about liberalism. The state has its functions very well defined in the constitution. What happens is that it does not perform them and makes the Argentine people pay for its mistakes. I am happy to hear that you are not a liberal.

[Raimundi] What did the liberals think about our breaking relations with South Africa? South Africa is the country which is most oppressive of individual freedoms from the political point of view, and the liberals were against breaking relations with it.

[Lozano] And you, why did you not break relations with Russia or with Fidel Castro, who discriminates against black people, as everyone knows? Why did you not break relations with Nicaragua, which is discriminating against the Miskito Indians? Minister of Foreign Affairs Caputo was not much concerned about discrimination in Cuba and Nicaragua but was concerned about this problem in South Africa, because it is a more capitalist country than others are.

[Raimundi] We are following a strategy which is not simply Argentine but is also global, Latin American, and basically nonaligned. It provides for a system of diplomatic relations with certain countries.

[Lozano] We do not follow any program of international planning. We want our country to be sovereign in its political decisions. Because of this foreign policy we are allied with Fidel Castro, who repays us with guerrillas.

[Cafiero] Many of those international blocs exist as a function of the fact that the cheapest merchandise continues to be the salary they are paid. They associate with those who can generate situations of corporative advantage in what is the new international division of labor. Therefore, the only place where Argentina can stand is the Nonaligned Movement, together with all of Latin America.

[EL PERIODISTA] What should be the role of the armed forces in society?

[Raimundi] We stand for the spirit of the Law on Defense, which was approved by the majority blocs in Congress. We think that the military can be called on to perform some intelligence tasks but in no way to select their objectives nor what will be the scenario of a war, because this decision is reserved to the political authorities of the state.

[Cafiero] The Law on Defense has been distorted by new legislation which, following the events at La Tablada barracks, has begun to take effect throughout the country. The provincial security leaders have been excluded, and a step backwards has been taken from the agreements reached on the occasion of the debate preceding the approval of that law. Our party platform states explicitly that the military shall not participate in the domestic intelligence function.

[Lozano] If the country is the victim of a attack by a modern force, such as foreign terrorists, the army must intervene. It is something else to commit the armed forces to the task of maintaining internal security, which is a police function.

[EL PERIODISTA] For which of the candidates of the parties represented at this table would you never vote?

[Raimundi] If the dividing line is between the defense of the people's interest, even from different points of view, and the defense of privilege, social injustice, the status quo, and managerial interests, I would not vote for the Union of the Democratic Center. However, Peronism makes a candidate so "impossible to vote for" that I would not vote for any of them.

[Cafiero] If I had to mention a single name, I would never vote for Alsogaray.

[Lozano] I would not vote either for Menem or for Alfonsin.

* Legislators Revive Decree Granting Amnesty

33480160c Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] National Senators Luis Salim and Horacio Bravo Herrera are authors of a draft bill under which "sentences handed down and prison terms assigned for crimes committed up to 10 December 1983, resulting from actions intended to prevent, halt, or put an end to terrorist, subversive, or rebel activities, whatever their nature or the juridical order harmed, shall be expunged." The draft bill was presented on 22 April 1987.

As this draft bill has now expired, the two senators ask that "it be considered as having been reintroduced," arguing that "with the profound conviction that they are proper interpreters of the thinking of the majority of our compatriots, who wish definitively to bury hatred and vengeance as ways of life, we submit for the consideration of the Senate a draft bill with the fundamental objective of creating a suitable, legal instrument to guarantee the political stability of the country through a definitive reconciliation between Argentines and the establishment of social peace."

They add that "throughout the length and breadth of our country there is no room left for us to live together with hatred, vengeance, and divisions among Argentines. Only the unity of all of the forces which compose the nation will make it possible to live in peace."

Agitation

They explain further that, "contrary to our institutional tradition, Law No 23.492 has not assisted in the pacification of the country. It has generated a state of agitation among members of the armed forces who see how their leaders and officers are imprisoned, while many of the subversive elements who took part in kidnappings, acts of oppression, and murders have obtained their release, benefiting from reductions in their sentences or changes in the effects of the matter."

They also point out that much has been said and written about the antisubversive struggle. They stated: "However, the fact is that subversion had to be confronted to preserve the very existence of the nation. Without regard to the methods used, this struggle permitted the reestablishment of democracy and the respect of public freedoms."

Bolivia

La Paz Department Vote Count Proceeds 'Slowly'

PY1605020589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2012 GMT 15 May 89

[All figures as received]

[Text] La Paz, 15 May (EFE)—The results of the official vote count in La Paz reveal that CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland] obtained 8 percent more votes than the second most popular party in the 7 May elections.

CONDEPA, the party headed by Carlos Palenque, obtained 137,870 votes (28 percent) in La Paz and in the nearby city of El Alto. The ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], led by former President Hugo Banzer Suarez, obtained 98,120 votes (20 percent).

The ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR], headed by former Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, is third with 86,358 votes (18 percent), and the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora is fourth with 75,970 votes (18 percent).

The above figures correspond to a total of 504,632 counted votes, that is, approximately 25 percent of the nationwide total number of votes.

La Paz Electoral Court President Jose Luis Paredes today said that the official list of senators and deputies of the La Paz Department will be released on 17 May.

The official results of the elections will be made known late in May because the count of votes is preceeding slowly due to constant challenges and protests from party delegates.

In the past few days, ADN and MIR leaders charged Sanchez de Lozada with having committed fraud during the elections. Sanchez de Lozada, in turn, claimed an alleged "distortion of the popular vote" at the departmental electoral courts to the detriment of the MNR and of CONDEPA.

Sanchez de Lozada today proclaimed himself the winner of the elections, adding that "the MIR and the ADN are committing fraud" because they have the largest number of members in the electoral courts.

The president of the Departmental Electoral Court has charged that the negative attitude of the balloting stations' presidents and delegates from the cities of La Paz and El Alto has caused many balloting stations to be anulled.

Paredes said that one third of the total of balloting stations have been anulled. People might abstain from voting in the next elections in view of this situation, Paredes added.

The Fides Press Agency (ANF) has announced that the ADN and the MIR are planning to set up a government alliance for the next 4 years.

According to ANF, sources close to the MIR's leadership said that the MIR is interested in creating an alliance with the ADN to vote in congress for ADN leader and Hugo Banzer as president.

The ADN and the MIR told ANF that they will not sign agreements with the MNR, because "if the MNR wins the elections it will stay in power for more than the alloted 4 years." The MNR currently ranks second in the unofficial vote count.

The 27 senators and 130 deputies elected in the recent presidential elections will choose the new Bolivian president, because none of the parties has obtained the 51 percent of the votes required by the Constitution to take over the administration.

Coca Producers Reject Nomination of Drug Judges

PY1105142289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 May 89 p 7

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] and coca growers have rejected the six judges installed by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to hear drug cases. They claim that "these appointments are in keeping with Law No 1008, which is rejected by coca growers."

Upon releasing this information, COB Defense Secretary Alejandro Guzman, who is president of the National Coca Producers Association, said that "the COB and coca producers have rejected this law on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. They also charge that this law is antinational because it violates national sovereignty and the agreement signed with Bolivian coca producers."

Guzman said that Law No 1008 serves the U.S. Government's interests because it advocates total eradication of coca plantations and supports the appointment of judges to handle drug cases. With these judges, the law will prevail over national interests and interests of the coca growers, Guzman added.

Guzman said that the COB's position regarding drug trafficking remains unchanged; that is, it will support all policies aimed at fighting drug trafficking.

Guzman stressed that the COB will oppose policies that ban coca plantations and repress coca producing peasant sectors.

Foreign Minister To Attend Andean Pact Summit

PY1305172089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Bolivian foreign minister will probably represent President Paz Estenssoro at the presidential summit to be held in Cartagena Colombia.

The foreign ministers of the Andean Pact member countries recently concluded a meeting where they drafted some documents that will be analyzed by the presidents of the Andean Pact member countries.

During this meeting, Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia expressed Bolivia's position regarding integration among the five signatory countries of the accords.

According to the Bolivian Foreign Ministry, it is important that a national delegation attend the presidential summit, therefore, the foreign minister will be [word indistinct] for this purpose.

President Paz Estenssoro has decided not to attend the meeting due to the political and economic situation currently affecting the country.

The foreign ministers of the Andean Pact member countries said that the presidential summit's main objective is to promote actions that can strengthen the integration system. The presidential summit is scheduled for 25-26 May.

Energy Minister Illanes To Discuss Foreign Debt

PY1305182089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 May 89

[Excerpt] Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Fernando Illanes de la Riva today will leave for Boston, the United States, to participate in a meeting to discuss the Third World foreign debt problem. The meeting will focus on the problem of debts with the international commercial banking sector. The finance ministers of Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, and Costa Rica will also attend the meeting with other high-ranking authorities of the international banking sector, officials of the U.S. Government, and of the Bolivian economic [words indistinct].

Illanes explained that during the meeting the various government and banking sector representatives will discuss the current situation of Latin American countries' foreign debts as well as possible adjustments to the Brady plan. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Uganda

PY1105151389 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 May 89 p 6

[Excerpt] A communique, signed by representatives of Bolivia and Uganda, states that the two countries established diplomatic relations on 3 May 1989 in order to strengthen and develop bonds of friendship and cooperation.

Hugo Navajas Mogro y Perezi, the Bolivian ambassador to the United Nations and Karukubiro-Kamunawire [name as published], the Ugandan ambassador to the United Nations signed a joint communique in New York on 3 May. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives in Rio

PY1605013489 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 May 89 p 2

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by Alexsandr Nikolayevich Yefimov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force and deputy minister of defense, arrived yesterday morning at Galeao Air Base on a military exchange mission that will last 5 days. The Soviet officers are today going to Brasilia, where they will meet with Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima.

The Soviet officers arrived in Rio de Janeiro at 0800 on board an Aeroflot commercial jetliner and were lodged at the aeronautic minister's residence on the same base. The delegation consists of 3 officers, but 10 other Soviets—including crew men and aides—arrived on the same flight. According to Yuriy Dubinin, the Soviet consul in Rio de Janeiro, the visit by the Soviet delegation is in keeping with an agreement signed between the two countries.

In August 1988, Air Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant Brigadier Cherubim Rosa Filho visited several bases in the Soviet Union during the first Brazilian military visit to that country.

The Soviet delegation is now returning Rosa Filho's visit. At that time, Rosa Filho admitted the possibility of exchanging military attaches with the USSR.

At present the PRC is the only communist country with a military attache in Brazil.

The visit by the Soviet delegation could be the first step toward promoting military and technological cooperation between the two countries. Today at 1030 the aeronautics minister will decorate the Soviet officers with the Order of Aeronautical Merit in a ceremony at the Aeronautics Ministry's main hall.

Technical Problems Delay Rocket Launching

PY1605031289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] The Launch of the prototype of the Satellite Launching Vehicle from Barrera deo Inferno Launching Center, in Rio Grande do Norte, has been postponed until 1100 on 17 May due to technical problems. The launching of the reduced model of the Satellite Launching Vehicle had been scheduled for 16 May, before it was postponed. Technicians of the Barrera do Inferno Launching Center have not revealed what problems caused the delay.

Leftist Front Launches Lula's Candidacy

PY1605032189 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May p 5

[Excerpt] For the first time in Brazilian history, four leftist parties have shared the same stage with the same objective: To appoint Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as their presidential candidate. A rally and show were held in Sao Bernardo do Campo to launch the campaign of Lula as the presidential candidate of the Brazilian People's Front [Frente Brasil Popular]—which consists of the PT [Workers Party], the PV [Green Party], the PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil] and the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]. At this event it became clear that the front wil have to wait until 30 May to resolve an impasse: the election of a candidate for vice president, a post that is being sought by the PV and the PSB. The PCdoB has already declined that post.

Shortly before delivering a speech at the Municipal Palace, Lula said: "The front will be the undisputed winner." Addressing thousands of supporters, artists, and guests, Lula described the situation of the working class and the 13 priority points in his platform. The PT leader noted, however, that his proposals are still vague because they are in the process of being formulated. Nevertheless, he said, they do represent valid proposals for a new government. "The socialist stage will come later," he added. [passage omitted]

* Quadros, Quercia Emerge as Leading Candidates

33420047 Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 22 Mar 89 pp 24-29

[Text] Just 240 days before the presidential election, the conservative bloc has many candidates for defeat, but for the time being, no candidate for victory. The fatal deadline for producing a winner is 15 May.

The fatal deadline for the conservatives has everything to do with the fatal deadline for the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]. On the chessboard of the presidential succession game, the PMDB, the largest party in the country, has won the right to play with the white pieces and to make what is called the opening gambit—the first move of a pawn. At the convention last weekend (see p 29), the PMDB argued at length, but failed to make its move. The conservatives may borrow a candidate from the PMDB. Or, depending on who he is, they may flee from the PMDB candidate as the devil flees the cross.

The specter of Brizola frightens them. They see a terrifying image in which the face of Brizola alternates with Lula's scowl, having the same fearful ideological effect. Brizola poses a threat to a hegemony which dates back to Marshal Deodoro in 1889, with transitory but significant intervals—the immediate postrevolutionary stage in 1930, the last 2 years of the second Vargas government, and the Goulart presidential era from January 1962 to March 1964. Whether with the facial features of Lula, the PT [Labor Party] candidate, or with the face of Brizola, the leader of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], the left wing won an unprecedented opportunity to seize power by the unchallengeable path of direct, popular, and democratic balloting. To prevent this, it would suffice for the squadron representing the status quo to go into battle with a candidate with a chance of winning. This is difficult. The traditional right wing is not very well accustomed to democratic electoral processes. Since in this instance, there is no way out, one can understand the fidgety anxiety which has in recent days motivated individuals ranging in inclination from the right-wing fascism of the likes of Jose Lourenco, the leader of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] in the federal chamber, to the sweetish liberalism of the likes of Alvaro Dias, the governor of Parana, and including the lucky individuals in the Palace and those who merely have an honest desire to protect their capital from the increasingly worrisome onslaughts of labor.

"Nowadays, people do not even have a place to which to flee," an influential and intelligent former minister of state says in summary. The extreme right wing, the right wing, the center-right, the liberal center, and the center pure and simple—all of these categories are covered by this term "people." The "people" are somewhat uncertain as to what to do. There are those who are hastily boarding the first ships to sail—that of Afif Domingos, the PL [Liberal Party] candidate; or that of Ronaldo Caiado, captain of the defensive team of the UDR [Rural Democratic Union]; or that of Colonel Jarbas Passarinho of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], a very honorable signatory of AI-5 [Institutional Act No 5]. But here, setting forth involves a serious risk of shipwreck. The "people" do indeed want to find a safe vessel. Just one, preferably. This is what the intelligent minister is betting on. The "people" might, for example, choose the trans-Atlantic vessel of businessman Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, the head of the leading private group in the country, Votorantim, who was defeated as a candidate for the governor's post in Sao Paulo in 1986. Antonio Ermirio wants to run for the presidency, and with some policing, he might be a very strong candidate against the left. Strategy sessions have lasted far into the night. On Wednesday, the 15th, an untimely letter from the businessman confirmed the goal of his dream, but decimated the hopes of others—he would like to be, but is not, a candidate. "On 15 November 1989, I will go to the polls simply as a voter," he wrote to the newspapers.

This letter was a triumph, as a personal statement, but a catastrophe as a political decision. Dr Antonio left the game at a time when his rating was high. The PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], through the leader in the federal chamber, Gastone Righi, prepared the path for him with the intention of crushing the other candidacies on that same side of the ideological frontier, beginning with the uncomfortable candidacy of Janio Quadros. Because of a question of intelligence and popularity, the less satisfied half of the PFL (including Marco Maciel, Jorge Bornhausen, Joaquim Francisco, etc.) was prepared to trade Aureliano Chaves for him, even knowing that in terms of style, the two were somewhat similar. The letter showed, for the first time and for the last, the confusion into which Dr Antonio might lapse during a campaign. In the PDS, the surprising Paulo Maluf came forward to host Ermirio, suggesting his name at a gathering at the home of Deputy Arnold Fioravanti in Brasilia, which dragged on for 4 hours. "We have personal differences, but he is the man," Maluf summarized.

That Tuesday night, the 14th, the former deputy revealed another aspect of his rich political personality—disinformation. That very night, in Sao Paulo, Ermirio privately drafted his final withdrawal, without consulting anyone except possibly some family members. Once again, Ermirio felt hurt. This time it was by the "tucanos" [symbol of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB)]," who put him back in the street again with Jose Serra's campaign for the prefecture of Sao Paulo last year, and did not even deign to consult him when it came to nominating Mario Covas for the presidency. Particularly because a gullible Ermirio believed that he might be the PSDB candidate.

Publicly, Ermirio blamed Janio Quadros and the eager emissaries of his candidacy. The businessman complained that Deputy Gastone Righi wanted a decision by Friday, the 17th. Ermirio spent 3 sleepless nights, got a crick in his neck which was only cured by sips of Copenhagen beer with unsuspected therapeutic powers, and finally, in 11 pages written in a confessional tone, he made the "most difficult decision" of his lifetime. As a voter, he did not even promise to support Mario Covas, with whom, however, he had talked at length the preceding Sunday. Ermirio continues to be offended. With his departure from the scene (which can only fail to be final if a crowd gathers, candles in hand, in front of his office in the Anhangabau Valley), this businessman has released a substantial sector of votes. Janio Quadros, on his right, is rejoicing. And Covas, on his left, may benefit.

Immediately after the leftist avalanche in November, "luas-pretas" in the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP), at the request of their amazed bosses, outlined the profile of the man who might prove to be the needed candidate in 1989—a kind of dike against the socialist tide. Covas had the head, the eyes, the nose, and the mouth of the candidate the FIESP wanted. But his candidacy moved sluggishly, which was enough to revive the major grudge held by the conservatives against the "tucanos"—his alliance with the left wing at the Constituent Assembly. The reservation was not an ideological one. Not even the ruralist Flavio Telles de Menezes could think that Covas is a socialist. The question is one of style. A solitary horseman in politics, Covas takes with him only his principles, and there are those who regard them as very straitlaced. If anyone thinks he has seen this film before, he is not mistaken. Mario Covas reminds us of the classic western "Shane."

Aureliano Chaves, the informal candidate of the PFL, at least until the convention on 9 April, has moved out of the shadow of Antonio Ermirio, but he is likely to frighten himself with his own. He arrived in Brasilia on Monday night to take up his candidate's role against the betrayals promoted within the PFL. He was welcomed at the airport by a half dozen deputies who are members of the federal bench, headed by leader Jose Lourenco, and by some applause. Dumbfounded, he stated in his well-known peremptory tone on television: "I am not a man to bite the hand which feeds me." He meant, it is presumed, the Sarney government. It was not Aureliano alone who felt unpleasant gastronomic symptoms when, defending Sarney, he opened the back door to his campaign. The constraint was general. Aureliano has told friends that he will only continue as a candidate if there is PFL unity, first, and second, if Minas Gerais is united. The PFL is going to the convention lacking unity. Governor Newton Cardoso in Minas Gerais has not given the slightest indication of having heard Aureliano's pleas. The PFL, which lost Silvio Santos and lost Antonio Ermirio, is running the costly risk of losing with Aureliano.

The rowdy right wing labeled its candidate once and for all in a display in a rodeo setting, to the accompaniment of creaking boots, in Uberlandia, Minas Gerais, on Friday the 17th. But Ronaldo Caiado and his UDR are also peripheral phenomena in the scheme of the conservatives who have the proper habits and proper votes. Just as there seems to be no likelihood either that any great innovations will be introduced in the succession game at the scheduled meeting of the PDS on Tuesday night, the 14th, at the Fioravanti mansion in Brasilia. Of the two possible PDS candidates, two were present—former minister Jarbas Passarinho and former deputy Paulo Maluf. For some reason which surpasses any political understanding, Maluf indulged himself in a half hour's digression on modernity—which may perhaps have drawn the attention of the understanding audience to the bold cut of the suit Maluf had just bought in a Paris boutique. Passarinho, his rival, made sport of Maluf. "Modernity? I have read about that in the newspapers." Delfim Netto, a pragmatist, defended the concept of the candidate as such. An intimate friend of mathematics, he tried to add up the score—300 minutes of free propaganda on the television, or 5 hours. Tempting. But Delfim, who was in London with Janio Quadros recently, already admits that it will be a "defeated vote." Between Maluf and Passarinho, the PDS is likely to choose Janio Quadros, in the end. It is here that the smoke cloud of the useless meetings and the dust raised by the second team candidates begins to dissipate. When the dust settles, what remains for the conservatives is the candidacy of Janio Quadros. Many of them think that he is a consistent candidate. All, or almost all of them, from the liberals to the fascists, would race into the arms of an individual with fascinating charisma, a personality with a powerful stage presence and a program carefully plotted in Europe, which seeks to win over the youth who do not have the sad memory of August 1960 by making use of ecological appeals and patriotic fervor. For the conservatives, Janio Quadros means the certainty that a professional is going into the field.

Last week, the professional arrived in Rome from Istanbul and strolled along the Via del Corso and the Via Fratina in such a way that the photographers could find him. And thousands of kilometers away, he ensured the publicizing of statements and attitudes which may not be exactly his own, but which are attributed to him. In Europe, enjoying the political advantages of distance and the personal delights of the trip which will cost $75,000, prorated among five generous friends, Janio is practicing the principle of visible invisibility, his strong point in the campaign for the prefecture of Sao Paulo in 1985. The more distant the scene, the more present he will be. He is the candidate with the best daily press coverage. The others, since they are closer, are not so interesting.

The DDI [International Direct Dialing] bills of the newspapers are likely to become astronomical, because the return of Janio Quadros to this country depends on the definition for which the entire country is waiting. Even Janio, with that air of Olympic superiority of his, relies on the PMDB to trace his destiny. The PMDB is holding a convention to unravel the mystery, but in the end, it has succeeded in making it still more intriguing. The greatest enigma of the PMDB answers to the name of Orestes Quercia. The governor of Sao Paulo insists emphatically that he is not a candidate. Everyone left the PMDB convention persuaded that Quercia is a candidate, or could be, even if this truly goes against his own personal plans.

The right-wing faction in the PMDB tried to split the party at the convention, proposing the candidacy of Minister of Agriculture Iris Rezende. This candidacy is a little bit of a lie. The right-wing faction in the PMDB, which claims to be moderate, is pretending that Rezende, the Planalto Palace favorite, is the candidate for the presidency, but it has assured him of a vice presidential slot on a conservative slate which is not exactly the PMDB slate. The left wing of the PMDB cheered Governor of Bahia Waldir Pires, who is in fact a candidate for the presidency, in the belief that he has better electoral prospects than Ulysses Guimaraes, but Guimaraes has been told in person that Pires will not enter the fray unless he (Guimaraes) withdraws. The man who was always regarded as the natural candidate of the PMDB went into the convention on Friday, the 10th, a defeated man, but he left it on Sunday with a truce established. Strictly speaking, it was not Ulysses, but the others, who lost.

Ulysses Guimaraes will only fail to be the PMDB candidate if Orestes Quercia is the candidate instead. If the PMDB puts Guimaraes forward, the conservatives will suddenly collapse into the arms of Janio Quadros. If the choice is Quercia, Janio Quadros will be the first to abandon the hustings for a comfortable retirement in a castle in Cornwall, duly provided on the basis of an implicit political agreement. In other words, the only candidate who knows he will emerge a winner, in one way or the other, is the unpredictable Janio Quadros.

He and his friends are convinced that in this race, Orestes Quercia represents the only possibility of linking the PMDB votes together with the Sao Paulo votes. The result of this sum would be victory. Janio has no agreement with Quercia. He does have, although it may not seem so, a pact with good sense. The leading governors in the PMDB are also convinced of this. But Quercia reiterates that he is not a candidate. The Quercia enigma is a replay of the Tancredo enigma in 1984. Tancredo Neves, the governor of Minas Gerais, was fearful of taking the risk of a political venture as the opposition candidate in the Electoral College. He said that he was not a candidate, however much the tide swept him out to sea. The governors, headed by Franco Montoro, had to see to the discreet removal of Ulysses Guimaraes' objections to indirect elections. At a meeting at the Bandeirantes Palace in June, Tancredo Neves sat with head bowed, tearing paper into little bits, while the PMDB governors took turns speaking. He must be the candidate. Coincidentally, the PMDB governors were invited to sit at the very same table in the same palace this weekend when Quercia had them as his guests in connection with the inauguration of the Latin American Memorial. At the convention, Quercia, on whom all eyes and all doubts were focused, maintained a low profile. But the Memorial, for example, has the look and the price of a candidate's project—$40 million.

Quercia has his own concerns about the desirability of taking the risk. He has a duty of personal loyalty to Ulysses, and he has political problems at home, with the excessive eagerness of his deputy, Almino Affonso, to get him into this post and to push him into the presidential campaign. The relations between the two are far from friendly. They did not even greet each other at the great convention celebration held at the home of Maria Ines Pinheiro, the sister of Deputy Israelzinho, on Saturday, the 11th. Quercia was in such good spirits that he was willing to perform a considerable selection from his repertoire, from "Noche de Ronda" to "Menino da Porteira," accompanied by guitars. As he left, he ran into Almino Affonso. The constraint was mutual. Quercia broke the ice. "You're here?" And that was all. Days later, five individuals on the second level in the government of Sao Paulo, all of them appointed by Affonso, were decapitated by Quercia.

Last Monday, Ulysses Guimaraes called the "poire" team together to decide on the next steps in his candidacy. Pedro Simon, governor of Rio Grande do Sul, was bold enough to suggest what no one had previously dared to venture—that Quercia might be a candidate. And more—that it would be Quercia who would unite the party and enjoy some chance of triumph. Ulysses says that he continues to have confidence in what Quercia tells him. He has confidence—mistrustfully. That same afternoon, he called Quercia on the telephone and attempted a checkmate. He suggested that the governor of Sao Paulo head his campaign. Quercia agreed. Ulysses believes him, or pretends to. No one else does. Janio Quadros is waiting, the bloc ranging from the center to the right is waiting, and the PMDB is waiting. And Brizola is peeking around the corner.

Anti-Brizola Candidates

What There Is and What Is Lacking in the Background of the Politicians Who May Challenge the Left (from the point of view, of course, of the conservatives)

	Virtues	Hindrances	How They Can Be Overcome
Afif Domingos	A new face; persuasive liberal; linked with the base levels in business (a kind of right-wing Lula)	Although he has a promising ball in hand, he is playing in the junior leagues	To begin with, by wearing less cologne and a more rumpled suit

Antonio Ermirio	Has drive, money, and tells the businessmen what they want to hear (for example, that they work very hard and the workers do not); not a career politician; manages the largest private group in the country with an iron hand	Emotionally unstable, since he has not yet found a way to participate in politics without the politicians; a final clash with Lula or Brizola would represent a conflict between capital and labor. Even the conservatives know that if capital and labor were to vote in Brazil, labor would win	A professional advisory team to serve as a screen for the candidate; Luis Antonio de Medeiros, the trade unionist who gets results, is available in the PTB to mitigate the class struggle, and he is wild to be the second man on his slate
Aureliano Chaves	Consistency, even in error	Verbal, etc.; will only run if the PFL and Minas Gerais unite (that is, if he wins the support of Newton Cardoso)	By keeping silent
Fernando Collor	Pursuer of maharajas, champion of moralization of the public sector; his 38 years are his electoral charm	Doesn't know if he is on the first or second team, if he is a leader in the Northeast or at the Rio Country Club, or if he is in fact a candidate for the presidency or vice presidency	By relying exclusively on the Gallup Institute
Janio Quadros	Won a presidential election 29 years ago, but is still the target of criticism; has a nose for politics and a stage presence; has a secret bank account in Switzerland	As it is all staging, he may not have the votes he claims; has no party, although he behaves as if all of them were courting him; doubts about his physical health, etc; Orestes Quercia; has let the number of his Swiss account leak out	Could benefit, as he did in Sao Paulo in 1985, from the principle of invisibility—the less he appears the better; by having party names for sale; by having a crowd of veteran supporters in Europe; is Quercia a candidate?; by changing the code of the secret account
Jarbas Passarinho	As a colonel, he has a military flavor (appreciated by the right wing)	As a colonel, he has a military flavor (the voters mistrust it)	By liberal discussion and a photograph of him in pajamas
Mario Covas	Vote, vote, vote—on the right, in the center, on the left	Constituent Assembly syndrome—the right wing thinks he has too many principles. This makes political and electoral agreements and personal expediency difficult	By bragging, for example, that Prof Adroaldo Moura da Silva will be his finance minister
Orestes Quercia	Electoral density—adding the Sao Paulo votes to those of the PMDB, he would be unbeatable; excellent negotiator	Ulysses Guimaraes; he is not a candidate	By means of someone who talks like Ulysses; still could be
Paulo Maluf	Businessman, with ideological firmness and his own funds	The national champion of rejection, he gave the impression in the campaign for the prefecture of Sao Paulo of winning the sympathy of the middle class, but he has some decades of work ahead of him	Plastic surgery? An audio-analysis to adjust the timbre of his voice? (He tried eyeglasses, but this didn't work)

Ronaldo Caiado	Youth	Even the most rabid rightists regard him as one of those rowdies from the interior who specialize in drubbing performers from outside	Hopeless case, even if he invited the elegant president of the Sao Paulo Stock Market, Eduardo Rocha Azevedo, to be his running mate
Ulysses Guimaraes	President (still) of the (still) largest political party in the country	The past; his economist friends in the PMDB, some of whom, moreover, are no longer in that party	By having Robertao Cardoso Alves head his campaign
Waldir Pires	Showed competence in managing an enterprise which no businessman could put on its feet—Social Security	He is on the left	By having a running mate farther to the right. During his election in Bahia, he negotiated well with the other side

The PMDB—A Test of the Opposition

Almost all of the current reports about the results of the national convention of the PMDB, which ended in the early morning hours on Monday, the 13th, are at odds with the facts. It is said that the PMDB ended up hopelessly divided—something which once again did not happen in the end. There were celebrations of the triumph of the "moderates"—which is not true either. And it is being said, finally, that President Jose Sarney emerged unharmed from the gathering of the PMDB members, something which also failed to occur.

An assessment of the 17 hours of statements, discussion, and intrigue at the PMDB convention revealed, first of all, the triumph of the so-called "historic group" in the party. Allied with the followers of Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, they gained control of 63 percent of the national board of officers, although the votes for the "moderates" were really surprising. There are those who say that, having infiltrated the winning slate, the "moderates" of Carlos Sant'Anna and Robertao Cardoso Alves may in the end constitute the majority on the board of officers in the future internal struggles of the party. However, there is no guarantee that this will happen one day. There were only seven infiltrators, according to the calculations of those who know the party well. And of these seven, only three (Albano Franco, Flaviano Melo, and Expedicto Machado) would represent votes the "moderate" group could count on in a clash with the "historic" faction.

Strictly speaking, Ulysses did not reach an agreement with the "historic" faction. He merely signed a letter of surrender. The signals of this were already clear when the winning slate was made up. In this connection, he accepted the imposition of a veto on all of the ministers in the Sarney government, risking a break in relations with such traditional allies as Iris Rezende and Jader Barbalho. As early as that, Ulysses signed "a compromise" with the "historic" faction, in accordance with which the first 17 names on the slate would then be the members of the party's national executive body. And on that list, he only had seven names of members of his "poire" group.

During the convention, an unexpected difficulty in maintaining this agreement developed when Governor of Minas Gerais Newton Cardoso demanded the post of secretary general of the party for his state. This post had already been regarded as a sure thing for "historic" faction member Jose Fogaca, of Rio Grande do Sul, a personal friend of Ulysses Guimaraes, who saw the danger in a division on the slate. Newton had in hand 58 state delegates, and in the end, he yielded.

The governor of Minas Gerais then gave Ulysses Guimaraes a list of four names, in which he included, at the very last minute and without much conviction, one "historic" member from his state, Tarcisio Delgado, who was finally confirmed for the post. Thus the executive board ended up with 17 members of the "historic" group and nine of the Guimaraes group. Despite the unexpected votes won by the "moderates," they did not succeed in getting any of their nominees into the party leadership body.

They attempted yet another maneuver in the early morning hours on Monday, the 13th, on completion of the voting. They had in the end won 331 votes against the 531 cast for the official slate. Among their leaders there was even an atmosphere of euphoria, with Jose Aparecido of Minas Gerais, for example, coining the statement "Those who lost won, and those who won lost." He was mistaken. When Carlos Sant'Anna went in search of Ulysses Guimaraes to ask for "a postponement to allow further thought," implying that in view of the results, the "moderates" should be represented among the officers, all he got from the veteran leader was a formal refusal.

Sant'Anna did not insist, but he was clearly annoyed. He and his comrades organized an effort to leave the convention lacking a quorum when the time finally came to vote on the composition of the new executive board. Their effort was in vain. The winners had enough votes to retain their advantage. And they even profited from the absence of the "moderates" to deal the government position within the party another blow. At the first meeting of the new executive board, they approved a motion awarding General Oscar Passos, president of the old MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement], the title of "honorary president" of the party.

To make everything clearer, last Wednesday the new members of the PMDB executive board also approved a recommendation that the party should henceforth "no longer compromise in any way with this government," as proclaimed by Deputy Helio Duque, the leader of the efforts of the "historic" group, a short time earlier.

Chile

Hernan Buchi Rejects Presidential Candidacy

PY1505205689 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 89

[Statement by former Finance Minister Hernan Buchi; place and time not given—recorded]

[Text] The Chilean people know me; I am not a politician. I have never had the ambition to become president of Chile. I dedicated the best years of my life to public service—to serving the weak and needy of our society.

I contributed to my country to the best of my capability in every public post I have held, even the humblest ones. This has been true from the time I trained as an engineer in Chuquicamata to the time I was minister of finance.

When I resigned as minister 40 days ago, I said I would begin a period of consultation and reflection before I made any decision. I have carried out consultations to assure myself that my vision of the basic Chilean problems and their solutions was correct and well directed. I reflected on whether it was possible to harmonize my reserved personality with the demands of a presidential campaign.

I am not a good speech maker. I am an engineer, I work in silence, and I love privacy. I prefer to work rather than to make promises or demonstrations. I like to go to the slums and hospitals to get acquainted with the problems of the poor. I do not, however, like doing so in front of television cameras.

I deeply respect political life in democracy, but I do not have the vocation of a presidential candidate. I want you to know that I have done my best. I worked to my limits, but I was unable to overcome this vital contradiction, which I believe could jeopardize the ideas that I endorse and that have placed Chile on the path to democracy and progress.

Therefore I decided not to run for the Presidency of the Republic. Perhaps some groups, who see that some polls have favored me, will think that I do not have a good enough reason for my decision. Only those who know me well know just how serious, honest, and responsible my decision is.

I have a vocation for public service, but I have no vocation for publicly announcing my activities and ideas to the degree required by the complex world of political campaigns.

In any case, I am satisfied. I have shared with you, as always, the truth. I have no vocation, and without a vocation I cannot be a responsible candidate.

* Buchi's Strengths, Weaknesses Assessed

33480167a Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 10 Apr 89 pp 14-16

[Article by Jose Joaquin Brunner: "Buchi—The Fascination of Marketing"]

[Text] One of the conclusions to which the right-wing groups came following their defeat last October was that the political "marketing" of the "yes" faction was weak, confused, and vastly inferior to the campaign of the "no" faction.

In particular, there was harsh criticism of the poor use made by the government of its priority access to television. A review of the discussions which took place in right-wing intellectual circles subsequent to 5 October will reveal that a large part of the explanation for the defeat is found in poor use of the media, combined with the lack of an adequate publicity strategy and the limited credibility of the candidate's profile (Pinochet).

The need to think of electoral policy as an intensive "marketing" operation has, for this very reason, been present since the very first day in political, business, technical, and intellectual circles in the right wing.

As one of the analysts put it in the periodical ESTUDIOS PUBLICOS DEL CEP (No 33, Summer 1989), "Every candidate must be someone born to and happy with seeking votes, because they are what needs to be bought." As to the use of television, another analyst mentioned in the same periodical that "for the first time...we find ourselves faced with this medium, which has invaded politics... We cannot (now) be unaware of what we must do—know how to use it in order to win the next elections."

Fascination

The new conditions of and potential for "communication" in politics are in reality a factor which will have weight in any election from now on. When Frei was elected, television had just been introduced in Chile. About 10 percent of the homes had television sets at that time. In 1970, when Allende won the presidential election, there were television sets in some 30 percent of the homes, almost exclusively in the upper- and middle-income sectors. On the other hand, the plebiscite was a process, as we all remember, which was closely intertwined with television. In fact, almost all of the homes in the country have television sets at present. The "staging" of politics, then, has now become not only a possibility but, in addition, a necessity.

From that point to imagining that television is the focus of politics, and that politics comes down essentially to a campaign of images, there is, nonetheless, a distance which only fascination can bridge.

Because fascination is, to speak the truth, the word which best describes the phenomenon occurring in right-wing circles where Buchi is concerned, in an effort to project him now by means of a well-mounted publicity campaign.

Groups of Supporters

Those who are fascinated with the possibility of reducing the distance which separates image and reality through the use of the media and an intensive political marketing campaign are to be found in a number of right-wing circles. But generally speaking, they are members of the new generation on the right, whose training includes elements deriving from neoliberalism. They are the young businessmen, technocrats, and politicians who are taking over from the old guard (those born and educated prior to the advent of television). In some way, Buchi is the embodiment of the expectations of all of these groups or components of the new generation. Not only because of similarity of age and shared generational experience, but even more important, because these groups hope to see the values they favor reflected in a possible Buchi campaign.

The UDI [Independent Democratic Union] feels a connection with Buchi because of their common loyalty to the regime, and a similar identification with the "foundational" policies of the government. The neoliberals of the more intellectual or doctrinary cut hope that Buchi may be able to project his ideology in the more pragmatic field of ideology, thus introducing it into the democracy. The young businessmen believe that Buchi, like them, is an enterprising man prepared to take risks, and one who shares their view of the economy. The politicians of the younger generation hope, for their part, to transform Buchi into the battering ram which will enable them to complete the process of taking over from the old right-wing leaders. The technocrats who have emerged on the middle and higher levels of management of the "economic model," finally, recognize in Buchi the undisputed chief of their tribe, a position previously occupied by Miguel Kast.

The various aspects of the "Buchi precampaign" have now become recognizable, and they correspond precisely to these groups. The image of Buchi in the UDI is that of Lavin and his "silent revolution," and that of Jaime Guzman and his party with its "new method of engaging in politics." Among the neoliberals, it is certainly the Center for Public Studies which will in the end head the list of Buchi's think tanks. The young businessmen will soon be in tune with his candidacy, from the very moment Eleodoro Matte (the son) begins to sponsor Buchi. It is no accident that the "pro-Buchi" faction in the National Renewal Party (RN) have, since the beginning, been such new arrivals as E. Matthei, R. Gazmuri, and B. Matte. The leader who may well emerge is A. Allamand, who will not infrequently be seen publicly endorsing Buchi's campaign soon.

Legacies

Buchi's problem—which is the same as that of the new right-wing generation—is how to ensure credibility with the country. Those who are enthralled by the fascination of marketing believe that the problem can be resolved by an intensive, well planned, and effective "marketing" campaign. In order to be efficient, it would have to rise above the negative legacies of the regime and the shadows which his association with Pinochet has cast over Buchi. The task is not an easy one. As the studies made subsequent to the plebiscite show, the "no" faction won because the majority believe that: (I) The economic situation has affected them negatively; (II) the regime violated human rights; (III) Pinochet's government should be changed; and (IV) thus, by voting "no," they could contribute to the return of democracy.

Can Buchi change these perceptions, and thus reduce this majority? It is not very likely. Buchi seems, on the contrary, to be the right-wing candidate who is potentially most vulnerable. In fact, it is a certainty that he will speedily be identified as the man associated with the regime who had the most to do with the shaping of this economic situation which the majority rejects. Second, he will repeatedly have to answer for where he was and what he was doing during the systematic violations of human rights in which the government of which he was one of the highest executives seems to have been involved. And third, it is hard to imagine how he could emerge from Pinochet's shadow to become a credibly independent man without a past. Fourth, it is improbable that he will appear to be a better choice, as compared to the opposition candidate, to guarantee the return of democracy to the country.

Contradictions

Buchi and the men of the new generation, for their part, will seek to project the image of a truly democratic candidate. However, only 3 percent of those who voted "yes" did so with democracy as their motivation. In the future, this group will try to attack the opposition for containing leftist sectors within it, when in reality this factor was a motive for only 16 percent of those who voted "yes." On the other hand, they will try to separate Buchi's image from Pinochet as much as possible, whereas one out of every three persons who voted "yes" did so precisely because of enthusiasm for the person of the old general. Similarly, it is hard to see how Buchi, with his lack of political experience and the need to create a new (and even inaccurate) image, can guarantee, as Pinochet did, that he will ensure order and calm. However, almost half of those who voted "yes" made that choice precisely because they perceived that Pinochet could guarantee that peaceful and orderly future.

In short, then, Buchi's campaign, and the image the new generation needs to sell on the market, will not be too clear-cut a "product." In turning away from his natural legacies in a veritable flight forward, he runs the risk of alienating up to a third of those who voted "yes." If his "managers" only go halfway, so as not to frighten away the most reluctant (the Pinochet supporters, National Advance, the authoritarians, and the conformists), it is then even more unlikely that this candidate can vie successfully for the centrist votes he so desperately needs to reduce the existing distance between the "no" and the "yes" factions.

This, then, is how the Buchi campaign has begun—with the fascination of the new generation, which although it has hardly been tested in real politics, is nonetheless relying on its technocratic abilities, its resources, and its determination in the hope of finally replacing the old guard and attempting radical "modernization" of the government and of politics.

From now on, then, we will hear a great deal of talk about "marketing," manufacturing images, winning an audience, polls, and publicity strategies. In a way, we will be seeing the return of a "Chicago boys" wave—similar, but in this instance, oriented toward politics—perhaps more liberal, perhaps more democratic. But it will be characterized by the same immutable faith those involved have in their own intelligence, and the same lack of understanding of their limitations, the same hopelessly elitist class approach.

Movement Supporting Candidate Errazuriz Created

PY1305155789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] The National Center Union [Union Nacional de Centro] a movement that supports the presidential candidacy of businessman Francisco Javier Errazuriz has been established nationwide. This information was reported by the movement's coordinator, Jorge Gomez Balmaceda, who added that the movement already has over 6,000 supporters in the metropolitan region.

The movement has also opened offices in several regions. The movement's executive boards at the regional, provincial, and district levels will be designated in the near future.

Gomez also said that leaders of this movement, such as Hugo Larraiguibel, will run for Congress. Larraiguibel was Errazuriz's schoolmate at the military school.

* Participation in Transition Government Viewed

33480166a Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 10 Apr 89 pp 6-9

[Unattributed article: "They Are Going To Govern"]

[Text] "Guarantees of governability," "generic support," and "participation." The meaning of these current phrases often escapes the citizen who is not very familiar with political affairs. Understanding what they mean nowadays is particularly important, and not only for reasons of general education, of which there can never be too much, but because they have to do with nothing less than what the reality of the future democratic transition government will be like.

The fact is that, despite appearances, there seem to be opposition political sectors reluctant to commit themselves formally to a transition government, or to join in one. These are sectors which might be considering the possibility of their own projection as future government alternatives, once the 4 years of transition have passed, on the basis of an attitude of opposition, from popular positions, to this first democratic government. Or in other words, letting the transition government run its course, in order then to adopt a fresh and creditable position in defense of the popular interests with regard to a government which will inevitably have to operate under great pressures, while also seeking to establish the economic and political balances which will confirm its basic nature—that is, its function as a vehicle for transition to a stable and definitive democratic order.

The Need for a Decision Now

The phenomenon, of course, is in no way a trivial one. At the present time, the participation of the various political forces in the future government, or their refusal to participate, will determine not only the real support this government can obtain in carrying out its difficult task, but also the shaping of the electoral pacts which will facilitate the organization of a parliament which will give it backing. Decisions must be made on these pacts within the next few days, at the very latest.

This is the reason it is necessary that the decisions pertaining to the future government be made now. This is understood by the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and above all, by the five parties participating in the Concertation (the PPD [Party for Democracy], PSN [Nunez Socialist Party], PR [Radical Party], and the Humanists), which last Friday made public a proposal to draft a single opposition slate for the parliamentary elections on 14 December. This was a proposal matching that made the previous day by the president of the PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left], Luis Maira. The difference is that the parties in the PAIS differ in their conduct, since they include organizations such as the Historic Socialist Party (PSH) and the Christian Left (IC), which appear to be prepared to join in a transition government without reluctance, and others such as the

PC [Communist Party] or the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] which have not even joined in the Concertation. The attraction of the other parties making up this front is, on the other hand, of a homogeneous sort, being based on a common denominator—the need not only to "support" or respect the "bases for governability" of the future government, but also to participate in it fully. Within this framework, the possible electoral pacts can only involve those parties which have achieved this degree of government commitment, explicitly excluding those which are reluctant to give such support or are only doing so partially.

This requirement could be avoided by certain parties which have found a shortcut which would enable them to avoid defining the level of their participation in the next government now. This is what the Almeyda Socialist Party (PSA) seems to be doing. It has taken up the precandidacy of Patricio Aylwin with special vigor, proposing a speedy definition on this point, without regarding a prior definition about whether it will participate in the transition government or not, and to what extent, as obligatory. It is clear, however, that this formula, which may prove attractive to the PDC, does not appeal to the other parties in the Concertation, particularly the parties of the left, which like the PSN and the PPD, have adopted a strict approach in demanding prior clarification as to who will be in the government.

The Current Dilemma

Curiously enough, this question has posed a dilemma not only for the parties of the United Left (IU), which includes the main ones which are reluctant to participate in the future government, although not to establish parliamentary electoral pacts, but also the PDC, which has found itself trapped between two alternatives—the generous offer contained in the proposal of the Almeyda Socialist Party (support of Aylwin without necessarily participating in the government) and the demand of the other parties in the Concertation for a total commitment to the future government as a condition of any electoral pact.

The pressures exerted on the PDC in the last few days have been so extreme that it has been forced to assume positions which are not always consistent among themselves. For example, in only 1 week it has held meetings and apparently reached agreements with the Almeyda Socialist Party, within which the PSA has voiced its support, previously mentioned, of Aylwin's candidacy, and was scheduled to meet with the "Coalicion Chica" [little coalition] to clarify the meaning of these statements and agreements. In the opinion of the parties in this Little Coalition, and particularly the Social Democratic Party (PSD) which has raised its voice loudly, the decisions the PDC seems to be making are in conflict with the government agreement they signed with the Christian Democrats in September of last year. The problem was solved to some extent by means of a statement reaffirming the effectiveness of the Coalition and the willingness to participate in the future government. And, apparently to complement this, the vice president of the PDC, Andres Zaldivar, stated almost simultaneously that no agreements, even parliamentary, could be achieved with the parties making up the PAIS, and with the Communist Party, specifically.

Willing Participants

The best way of clearing up any doubts about this complex of questions was to ask them directly. More specifically, to consult all the parties in the Concertation about whether they were prepared to commit themselves to participate in the future transition government, and if so, in what sectors and with what individuals such participation would be proposed.

Of the 17 parties in the Concertation, responses could not be obtained from four (the PAC [Center Alliance Party], the PADENA [National Democratic Party], the MOC [Worker and Peasant-MAPU [Single Popular Action Movement] Party], and the PSM [Mandujano Socialist Party]). The rest were grouped in three sectors, to better orient the reader in the intricate branching of the opposition party picture. They are the Little Coalition, the parties in the Concertation which are members of the United Left, and the balance of the parties in the Concertation.

These were the answers. They cast considerable light on the question of who will govern, and they provide an outline of possible solutions to the enigma of the electoral pacts.

Opposition Political Parties (in alphabetical order)

Name	Acronym	Legal Status*
Center Alliance Party	PAC	P
Broad Party of the Socialist Left	PAIS	P
Communist Party	PC	
Christian Democratic Party	PDC	L
National Democratic Party	PADENA	
Humanist Party	PH	L
Christian Left Party	IC	
The Green Party	PLV	L
Worker and Peasant MAPU Party	MOC	
Movement of the Revolutionary Left	MIR	
Single Popular Action Movement	MAPU	
Party for Democracy	PPD	L
Radical Party	PR	L
Democratic Socialist Radical Party	PRSD	P
Almeyda Socialist Party	PSA	
Historical Socialist Party	PSH	P
Mandujano Socialist Party	PSM	
Nunez Socialist Party	PSN	
Popular Socialist Union Party	USOPO	

*P—Being processed; L—Legalized.

The Little Coalition

Although this is obviously not its official name, the Little Coalition was created in September of last year as a government pact signed by the Christian Democratic Party, the Radical Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Liberal Party (now the Center Alliance Party), the USOPO and the PADENA. The adjective "little" has nothing to do with the size of the parties included, but with the contrast between this group and the Concertation of Parties for Democracy, which has 17 parties as members. When it was created in September of 1986, it set itself the task of providing the country with "a government alternative open to the center-right and the center-left." This early determination to organize a transition government was confirmed by the answers we obtained to our questions.

Genaro Arriagada (Christian Democratic Party)

"We want a government which will have between 60 and 70 percent support and backing in the country, and this means that it must be a government which includes the Christian Democratic Party.

"The first government will develop within the presidential system, wherein the president of the republic stands above the parties, and will appeal to politicians and technicians for their assistance in absolute freedom. If the president is not one of us, we do not intend to demand anything, and we do not accept quotas."

Eduardo Jara (Radical Party)

"Yes. Not only will we participate, but it is a matter of duty to collaborate with the transition government, to have the will to serve.

"As to areas, we do not seek to limit ourselves. We have teams capable of acting competently in all the sectors deemed necessary—education, health, social security. The challenge is too great to think of personal interests."

Mario Papi (PSDP [Progressive Social Democratic Party])

"Yes, we agree to support and participate in the government.

"As to areas, we have not defined any specific ones as a party. This is an aspect which will be settled once the candidate of the Concertation has been designated, in mutual agreement with him and with respect for his prerogatives."

Ramon Silva Ulloa (Popular Socialist Union Party)

"We endorse the commitment of the Concertation, and we will do what is agreed to therein.

"As to areas, we have people trained in various sectors. This subject should be settled in meetings held to refine the agreements and resolutions."

United Left Parties in the Concertation

Four parties participating in the Concertation—the Christian Left Party, the Democratic Socialist Radical Party [PRSD], the Almeyda Socialist Party, and the Historic Socialist Party are at the same time participants in the United Left. To judge from their answers, the PRSD and the PSA would not participate in the future government, providing only support, although this position is only made clear by the latter. The PSH and the IC, on the other hand, would indeed participate in this transition government. The Communist Party and the MIR, which are included in the Concertation, are also participants in the IU.

Roberto Celedon (Christian Left Party)

"Yes, we would participate in the government if asked by the future president. We are making no demands.

"As to areas, the party has experts in many sectors, such as foreign relations (Armando Uribe), agriculture and health (Dr Haydee Lopez), the mass media, justice, etc."

Anibal Palma (Democratic Socialist Radical Party)

"The PRSD, like the United Left, will give full support to the next government, by participating in it or in a consensus with it. The form of participation will depend on the agreements reached.

"As to areas, we believe that general interests, rather than party preferences, should prevail. Here the overall interest should prevail over the specific."

Camilo Escalona (Almeyda Socialist Party)

"We would describe our general orientation on the future transition government, at this time, as support with independence. On this basis, at the proper time and in agreement with the other committed forces, we will make a decision on our participation. The Almeyda Socialist Party has contributed its support since independence was won.

"The political relationship with the president of the republic and the future participation of independent individuals or technicians in the work will depend on the president. This official's guidance of the state, free of political influence, must be safeguarded."

Juan Gutierrez (Historic Socialist Party)

"Yes, in the areas of education, social security, and the productive sector. The party is drafting a list of professionals."

Responses of the Parties Asked About Their Participation in, Support of or Refusal To Participate in the Future Democratic Transition Government

Participation	Conditional Participation	Support Only	No Participation
PDC	PH	PSA	PLV
IC	PRSD		
MAPU			
PR			
PSDP			
PSH			
PSN			
USOPO			

Note: The Broad Center Party and the National Democratic Party, which are members of the Little Coalition, could not be reached, but they should be regarded as among those prepared to participate in the future democratic government.

With regard to the other Concertation parties, setting aside the six which are participants in the Little Coalition and the four parties in the United Left, there remain as participants in the Concertation the Humanist Party, the Green Party, MAPU, Party for Democracy, Nunez Socialist Party, Worker and Peasant MAPU, and Mandujano Socialist Party. All except the last two answered our questions.

Tomas Hirsch (Humanist Party)

"Yes, under certain conditions with regard to the source and extent of participation.

"As to areas, all of the possible ones, in particular the social sector, internal organization (municipal councils, intendancies, government bodies), and the economy. We have not discussed individuals, but the PH has capable people in these and other sectors."

Andres Koryzma (Green Party)

"No, there are many pending matters to be resolved."

Oscar Guillermo Garreton (MAPU)

"Yes. There should not be a quota for participation, but teams, instead."

Jorge Schaulsson (Party for Democracy)

"The PPD has repeatedly said that democracy must be rebuilt by working from the government and the parliament. Therefore the next government must be a Concertation government, since it is the parties which believe in the democratic system which are called upon to guarantee the transition.

"As to areas, the PPD is assuming its commitment to Chile and democracy, and therefore it will participate in the future government and support it with its best men and women."

Jorge Molina (Nunez Socialist Party)

"A categorical yes. We have the desire to participate in the government, being a part of it and united in a joint program for 4 years, with a parliamentary agreement.

"As to areas, as long as the Concertation has not signed a government pact, we cannot be specific about ministries or public posts. However, there are three areas of special interest—democratic changes; the political sector, with state government and administration issues; and the economic sector. In addition, we are interested in the subjects of equity and justice and the role of the state, as well as the rights and freedoms of the workers and the social organizations."

Party Participation in Coalitions (acronyms in alphabetical order)

Party	Little Coalition (1)	Concertation (2)	United Left (3)	PAIS (4)
PAC	PAC	PAC		
PC			PC	PC
PDC	PDC	PDC		
PADENA	PADENA	PADENA		
PH		PH		
IC		IC	IC	IC
PLV		PLV		
MOC		MOC		
MIR			MIR	MIR
MAPU		MAPU		
PPD		PPD		
PR	PR	PR		
PRSD		PRSD	PRSD	PRSD
PSDP	PSDP	PSDP		

PSA		PSA	PSA	PSA
PSH		PSH	PSH	
PSM		PSM		
PSN		PSN		
USOPO	USOPO	USOPO		

(1) The Little Coalition was established in September 1988 as an alliance of six parties to "offer the country an alternative for government." According to its members, it does not influence the Concertation for a "No" Vote (16 parties) of which they are members.

(2) The Concertation for Democracy (17 parties) is the continuation of the Concertation for a "No" Vote. Its members include parties in the Little Coalition, the United Left, and others which are members of this group only.

(3) The United Left is a coalition of seven parties established on 26 June 1987.

(4) The PAIS has its registration pending. Here the situation of double membership could arise, with regard to the members of the PRSD, which is also in the process of legalization.

Conclusion

At first glance, two major conclusions stand out. The first is that if this were the political picture for next year, we would have a government with a broad base, with a right-wing opposition and one on the left. The latter would support the government and the bases for governability, but would stand apart, retaining the freedom to oppose. According to the responses obtained, this position would be adopted by the Almeyda Socialist Party, perhaps by the Democratic Socialist Radical Party, and the Green Party. It should be made clear that the first two have not said that they will not participate. They say that they are not certain, but that in any case, they will provide support. It should also be made clear that the Communist Party and the MIR are participants in the United Left but not in the Concertation, which means that they are situated outside the framework from which everyone says the future government will emerge.

The second conclusion is that there is unanimity about the absolute freedom of the president of the republic to assign work sectors and to appoint the individuals who will take responsibility for the respective tasks. This principle, which is among the criteria pertaining to the need to respect presidential decisions, to reject quotas, and to ensure that the general interest prevails over the specific, has made it impossible to establish as yet who the possible officials of the new government might be, although we assure our readers that we will be the first to report this information at the proper time.

Teitelboim Appointed New PCCh Secretary General

PY1505235389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1549 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 15 Apr (EFE)—The local press has reported that former Senator Volodia Teitelboim has been designated new secretary general of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh].

A top PCCh leader, who was consulted by EFE today, neither denied nor confirmed the report. He added that an official communique on the issue will be released next week.

It has been learned that the PCCh leadership was elected during the 15th PCCh Congress last week.

Teitelboim was elected PCCh secretary general. Former Senator Luis Corvalan, the current top PCCh leader, was not reelected, because he has lived abroad for over 10 years.

Former Deputy Gladys Marin, the former secretary general of the Communist Youth, will be installed as the PCCh General Undersecretary, the PCCh's second most important post.

According to confidential information from Communist leaders, "some proposals from sectors that have not reached an agreement with the PCCh's leadership," are included in the final document approved at the PCCh congress.

The document, among other things, criticizes the fact that during the past few years, the PCCh's leadership has not always been able to overcome the differences between the PCCh's leadership and its grassroot members.

The document also refers to the need for a broad debate on the international situation of Communism, especially on perestroika and its implementation at the local level.

* Maneuvering Within Opposition Studied

33480166b Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 pp 11-12

[Article by Ignacio Gonzalez Camus: "Tricky Twists of the Wrist"]

[Text] Allende was always surprised by his own political "wrist." And rightly so, as he was a virtuoso in maneuvering it. Now he must be in his element. In the opposition Concertation, wrists are being strengthened for the negotiation process. The problems in this "hand-to-hand" struggle are not easy ones.

Perhaps the least confusing thing is the government program of the Concertation. But even here, there are a couple of difficult points. One is the reform of the Labor Plan. While some have come out in favor of wiping this legal text off the map or "taking it apart" (leftist sectors and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] trade unionists), others, (among them, the PDC economists) are opposed, claiming that a drastic revision of it might threaten the export economy during the post-Pinochet government (which the opposition presumes, of course, will be its own). As to the other aspects of the program, the political-institutional aspect is being discussed by each party. It has been proposed that a National Justice Council participate in the appointment of Supreme Court judges and prosecutors, and that these magistrates should retire at 75 (this last is an amendment proposed by the PRSD [Democratic Socialist Radical Party]). The PRSD has also suggested that the status of the court employees dismissed as of 11 September 1973 be reviewed, along with the judgments handed down by the military courts beginning on that date.

And there are more proposals, recommending that the military courts be prevented from hearing civil cases; that the Antiterrorist Law and the Amnesty Law be revoked or amended; that the office of the Attorney General of the Republic be eliminated and replaced by a Public Defender's Office (an autonomous body for the defense of the rights of the citizens). With regard to the FFAA [armed forces] as institutional branches, it is proposed that military expenditures be reduced and redirected by a gradual reduction of military personnel and reassignment of resources; that better civilian and military integration be sought through defense policy planning involving the executive branch, the parliament, and civil society. And that the system of training the FFAA troops be revised.

Other proposals call for the creation of a secretariat of state on the ministerial level to deal with women's issues; reorganization of the National Women's Secretariat, a voluntary organization, and the Chilean CEMA [Mothers Centers]; professionalization of the public administration system, with entry based on public competitions, and guarantees of job stability, so that employees could only be removed on the basis of an indictment.

But when it comes to the other pending questions being considered by the Concertation, conflict arises. There are points of friction to be resolved.

The issue of the nature of the cabinet—in other words, its composition—lends itself to polemic argument. The Social Democratic Party (PSD) came forward, through its president, presidential candidate Eugenio Velasco, to appeal publicly to the PDC for clarification about the present fate of the "little coalition" (PAC [Center Alliance Party], USOPO [Popular Socialist Union Party], PADENA [National Democratic Party], PR [Radical Party], and PDC). It then addressed Patricio Aylwin's camp with the same question it had posed to the other parties in the Concertation concerning their political votes. The question asked for a definition of "the scope, form, and conditions of your responsibility and commitment (those of each party) to the future government" (see separate interview).

The PSD members complain about how difficult it is to be the ally of the PDC. The political vote of the latter group, which turned toward the Concertation to the detriment of the "little coalition," hurt the PSD deeply. Its members maintain that the line which triumphed in the plebiscite was the moderate line of the coalition platform. And that with another formula for the elections, one might be venturing onto uncertain ground. They explain that they do not want to exclude the left wing. Instead, they simply want the tricky members of the PDC, who trample on their partners with a heavy foot when the time comes to make decisions, to clarify the coalition issue first, in order to go on to the second point, as to who should govern. And then to talk with the left.

Obviously, the PSD people make it clear that their position is not exactly the same as that of PDC "renewal" advocates Adolfo Zaldivar and Hernan Bosselin, who want the initial choice to be the "little coalition." They have said that a Concertation government would fail, because before very long, the identities of the parties making it up would clash.

The Aylwin supporters reacted impatiently. Apart from labeling the two "the new minority" in the PDC, they proclaimed that these gentlemen are seeking to ensure the senatorial candidacy of Adolfo for Region III, and are seeking positions of power which will give them internal strength in the PDC. They insinuated that this parliamentary proposal should not be regarded as a certainty, because a different PDC may emerge.

The composition of the hypothetical Concertation cabinet has provoked another debate. The PPD [Party for Democracy] insists on the need to utilize the formula they call "532," which calls for 50 percent of the top posts for the PDC, 30 percent for the PPD, and 20 percent for the other parties. A key PPD leader told QUE PASA that acceptance of this formula by the PDC would be a "good base" for working out the cabinet issue. An important PDC leader, in turn, told QUE PASA that his party does not want to agree to fixed percentages, because the future president of the republic should be free to appoint homogeneous and effective teams. And he added that in its negotiations, the PPD "views everything in terms of the percentage of power it can win."

But the PPD, meanwhile, is watching what it regards as the "hegemonic spirit" of the PDC with suspicion. And in a disagreeable tone, it is calling attention to the "extreme ease" with which Patricio Aylwin is engaging in agreements with the PSA [Socialist Party-Almeyda] and raising a question with the Christian democratic negotiators. Can it be a good thing to accord such an advantage to the Almeyda faction, when it does not want to commit itself to clear responsibilities in the future government, and when its parliamentary representatives could perfectly well join the opposition in the course of the transition government itself?

A leader of the PSA says that its members support Aylwin because the political vote of the PDC "resolves the problem of possible future PDC hegemony in the government through the establishment of a supraparty system which would cancel out such a tendency." He added that they would be in a position to provide the government with their best men, "which does not mean that we will involve ourselves in their administration. And it is indeed possible to criticize this future administration."

Another Almeyda party supporter added that the Communist Party (PC) shares not only the single-candidate concept, but also belief in the need to balance the commitment to a democratic government with the historical aspirations of the left wing. He said that this subtle agreement with the PC "was reached through the PSA."

As to the candidate, this is a bone which sticks in the gizzard of the opposition.

A leading PDC personality said that a possible candidacy for Ricardo Lagos cannot be excluded. This is a point, according to him, which is related to the parliamentary slates. He said that the PPD does not want to join the PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left] on the same slate, because this would mean a replay of Popular Unity, with a heavy cost. Nor does it want to join with the PDC, because it would then be too much "propelled" toward the center. Therefore, if the PPD stands alone, it will have to have a presidential candidate—this is the conclusion this leader mentioned. But as the PPD does not want to break up the Concertation itself, it is said to be trying to encourage the PDC or the PSA to do so.

This strategy is reported to be cherished or promoted by the members of the PPD who are not of socialist origin (Jorge Schaulsohn, Jorge Molina, Victor Manuel Rebolledo), while it is rejected by the socialists, including Ricardo Nunez, secretary general of the Socialist Party-Nunez (PSN).

These interpretations are denied within the PPD, although it is admitted that Lagos would be a candidate (as he himself said) if the Concertation rainbow were to break up.

But the radicals, as well, have something to say in this affair. They told QUE PASA that they are aware that Enrique Silva Cimma has developed as a candidate. This point was made clear to members of the PPD, PR, and other groups present a dinner at the home of former senator Rafael Tarud on Wednesday, the 22nd (despite the increasing number of press reports indicating that the former controller would run for a Senate seat to represent Region VIII). The radicals hoped, our source said, for a counteroffensive on the part of the PDC, which did materialize in reports in the written press controlled by that party affirming Aylwin. The PR believes that Lagos cannot reduce his support for Silva Cimma and run on his own, because this would mean a split in the Concertation. And the impression exists that PSA support for Aylwin is not likely to develop in the end, among other things because Aylwin would not be very pleased to appear to have the support of this group.

With regard to the parliamentary candidacies, it is said that the PDC continues to support one "little coalition" slate and another representing the PPD and the PAIS. But the PDC people insist that they are not urging the PPD to join the PAIS on a slate. Jorge Pizarro, a PDC National Council member, said: "Personally, I would like to see a pact with participants ranging from the PAC to the PPD, and including the PR and the PDC." The members of the PPD are promoting another proposal, calling for the PDC to establish pacts with different parties in different regions, depending on the local situations. The radicals emphasize that they have not decided on the slate in which they might participate.

There is insistence within the PDC that there could be a single slate in only seven districts—those where the "yes" votes in the plebiscite won the highest percentages.

Concerning the possible candidates, we have learned that Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle has decided to base his desire to be a senator in the Metropolitan Region. On Monday, the 27th, he began to inform the base levels of his decision. But if Andres Zaldivar continues to pursue his aspiration to serve as a senator for Santiago, what will happen? Someone has put forth the hypothesis that the National Council of the PDC would approve both candidacies for the capital. According to this reliable informant, this would increase the flow of PDC votes and would contribute to Patricio Aylwin's possible future presidential campaign.

Minister Signs Agreement With World Bank

PY1305021889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 89

[Text] Today Chilean Finance Minister Enrique Seguel signed two contracts with the World Bank for credits worth $150 million, which will be used in Chile's urban, environmental, and industrial sectors. During the short ceremony at the World Bank building [in Washington] Seguel said that the IMF is acknowledging Chilean economic policy and helping improve Chile's image in the financial world through these credits.

A $75-million credit approved by the World Bank last March will be used to improve urban transportation and combat pollution in the metropolitan region of Santiago, Concepcion, and Valparaiso. The loan will help reduce the operational costs of car traffic and extend transportation services to low income sectors. The total cost of the project amounts to $150 million, including infrastructure works and a bicycle path in western Santiago to promote the use of this means of transportation.

Seguel also reported in Washington that Chile is negotiating a new agreement with the IMF in view of the conclusion of the last agreement signed in 1985. He said Chile is interested in maintaining some kind of IMF program.

According to the Chilean Embassy in Washington, after his 2-day visit to the U.S. capital, Seguel will depart tomorrow for Tokyo, where he will meet with private bank representatives and Japanese Government officials.

Referring to meetings with IMF officials, including IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, Seguel said we have begun to work with the IMF, and we are talking about procedures on which loan amounts are defined.

The extended arrangement signed between Chile and the IMF on 15 August 1985 for $850 million in Special Drawing Rights worth $1.15 billion expires next 14 August, he said.

FPMR Arsenal Discovered in San Fernando

PY1105164089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 May 89

[Text] Carabineros of Curico have issued the following official declaration regarding the finding of weapons at the foot of the Andean Mountain range in San Fernando:

Personnel of the Curico, Carabinero station, after analyzing the information disclosed by extremist (Juan Andres Orden Narvaez)—a member of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] who is being held at the local prison—and combing the Matancilla area in [name indistinct], in La Rufina neighborhood, San Fernando city, found weapons belonging to the subversive group that attacked the Los Quenes Carabinero station on 21 October 1988.

The following items were found wrapped in a nylon bag inside a cave on a northern branch of the Claro River: an M-16 rifle in good condition with two clips and 62 5.56-mm cartridges; 4 home-made bombs with fuses weighing ¼ kg each; 2 spades with compasses on the handle, the type used by the infantry; a large quantity of disposable gas bottles for camp lamps; water cans; harnesses for portable communications equipment; boots; nap sacks; camouflage uniforms; green plastic camouflage uniforms; olive green camouflag shirts; neckerchieves belonging to the FPMR.

All these items were seized by carabineros and placed at the disposal of the San Fernando Military Court.

CEPCH Declines To Participate in ILO Meeting

PY1205033289 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The Chilean Confederation of Private Sector Employees, CEPCH, has declined a Labor Ministry invitation to appoint representatives to the Chilean Government delegation that will attend the 76th ILO [International Labor Office] conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

CEPCH leaders argued that they cannot and should not be members of the official government delegation while union leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez are banished. CEPCH added that while the government continues to implement a repressive labor law that undermines union freedoms, it will not be part of any government-sponsored initiative, nor will it accept any government invitation.

CEPCH criticizes the government for not recognizing the economic and social rights of the labor class in a letter submitted to the Labor Ministry. It also charges that the government has not answered any of the CEPCH demands that have been repeatedly submitted to the authorities.

The CEPCH also states that it has requested a meeting with the newly appointed labor minister, but that so far this request has not been answered.

In addition CEPCH has expressed its support to the CUT [Central Labor Union] delegation that will attend the ILO meeting in June. CEPCH also states that it will appoint representatives to the government delegation attending the ILO conference only after democracy and union rights have been restored.

Industrial Group Asks U.S. To Lift 'Sanctions'

PY1205031089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Fernando Aguero, chairman of the Industrial Development Association [SOFOFA], has said that it is not up to Chile but to the U.S. Government to lift sanctions through which Chile is not allowed preferential rates in view of violations of union rights.

Aguero said that in March SOFOFA requested the U.S. Government to lift these sanctions through U.S. Ambassador Charles Gillespie. According to Aguero, SOFOFA made this request because the sanctions have been in effect for 1 year, and they are causing great harm to the Chilean industrial sector and Chilean workers. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry Official Meets UK Legislators

PY1105164289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Acting Finance Minister (Roberto Toso) met with a group of British members of parliament visiting Chile.

Jacques Arnold of the Conservative Party, Calum MacDonald of the Labor Party—both members of the House of Commons representing the Conservative Party [as heard]—attended the meeting. (Toso) discussed the development of the Chilean economy during the past year and first quarter of this year and analyzed its prospects in view of the political transition Chile is experiencing.

Colombia

Medellin Explosion Injures 5, Damages Monument

PA1405030689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 89

[Text] Five people were injured in Medellin this afternoon by an explosive device planted in the pedestal of the bust of Guillermo Cano [former EL ESPECTADOR director killed by drug traffickers], located at Bolivar Square, only 20 meters from CAI [not further identified]. The monument, which had been badly damaged in a previous attack, again had its base seriously damaged by the explosion.

The blast also shattered the windows of nearby buildings and cefeterias. Street vendors, passersby, and those who were at the movies near the park reacted by fleeing in terror. The CAI agents stationed at the park noticed nothing unusual prior to the explosion.

Sister of Medellin Cartel Leaders Arrested

PA1305192889 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1853 GMT 13 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 13 May (REUTER)—The Costa Rican press today reported that according to military spokesmen, Cristina Ochoa Vasquez—the sister of two alleged Medellin cartel leaders—was arrested by the Army on a farm in northern Colombia.

The woman was arrested on 11 May by 4th Brigade troops in Barbosa Municipality, some 25 km north of Medellin, on a farm being used as a youth rehabilitation center.

According to 4th Brigade Commander General Jaime Ruiz Barrera, the farm also served as a school for training armed fighters. The newspaper EL ESPECTADOR stated that weapons and communications equipment were found at the site.

The newspaper EL SIGLO said Cristina Ochoa was arrested with three other people. The woman, according to the media, remained at the 4th Brigade installations for several hours and was then referred to a civil judge.

Cristina is the sister of Jorge Luis and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez, who were accused last month by a Jacksonville federal judge of involvement in drug trafficking since 1974.

Last weekend, police troops arrested the Ochoas' father, Fabio Ochoa Restrepo, a well-known horse breeder. He was arrested in Medellin and accused of blackmail, but a judge released him some time after for lack of evidence.

* Changing Attitude on Crime, Drugs Seen

53002100x Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 9 Apr 89 p 2A

[Editorial: "Cohabitation With Crime?]

[Text] Confronted with public disorder, subversion, paramilitarism, and the reign of coca, voices have been raised calling for an understanding with the prevailing demoralization. Those making a more scheming outcry are the ones talking about legalizing the drug traffic, official "laundering" of its extensive capital, and pardon, overlooking, amnesty, or cohabitation with the direct perpetrators and beneficiaries of the fatal business.

During the past few days M-19 leaders publicly proposed that, just as there are talks with the guerrillas for achieving peace, there should also be talks with the drug traffic to seek an understanding. In this way that armed movement has assumed the status of spokesman for those common criminals, attempting to put them on the same level as political subversives. In this regard it should be recalled that M-19 has already made an alliance with the drug traffic for the attack on the Palace of Justice and, in the past, has had direct links with the owners of that criminal business.

But there are precedents likewise advocating the permissive tendency that is now beginning to appear, sometimes evasively, or as an acceptance or a challenge for us poor naive persons who still believe in the society's moral values. In the past, without the benefit of amnesty, talks were held abroad between an ex-president of the republic and the members of the "cartels" seeking an "understanding," and we even heard the proposal to buy the state's moral silence in exchange for the payment of our foreign debt. An attorney general of the nation was also in Panama involved in the very same kind of scheme. And we still don't know exactly whether all this was done with the acquiescence, or merely the disregard of the government at the time.

Political leaders motivated by the electoral cost of their campaigns are now making an outcry in search of that promising, profitable kind of rapprochement. At the same time, it is known that the convocation of a lawyers' forum is being negotiated which, through the holding of "round-table discussions," would end up recommending amnesty for the drug traffic and its capital, following the exposition of some "legal" grounds prompted by the incentive of lucrative fees.

The foreign press has publicized the thinking, or interest, which is not well known, of certain Colombian journalists who have started becoming an integral part of the same dance, and dancing to the same tune. One notes the odd silence kept by certain news media in connection with the Mafia groups in the area under their control. Thus, the honorable citizen has been losing his moral capacity, stripped of the protection that the so-called "fourth estate" ethically owes the society.

Prominent in connection with this permissive attitude, which shows all the signs of invading the country like a cancer, is the action being taken on behalf of the social order by some leading public institutional units. It is only fair to acknowledge the prudent action on the part of General Guerrero Paz, the defense minister. In the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], General Maza Marquez, with his intrepid position, is staking out every day the successful blows that he is dealing against crime. And both General Ruiz Barrera, in the Medellin Brigade, and Brigadier General Munoz Sanabria are also part of that active patrimony of the nation, with their timely vigilance against organized crime.

We Colombians should take careful note of this public contradiction and this deliberate confrontation. The time has come to make a decision in favor of one position or the other; to find out, without concealment, which side each person is on; and to unearth and admit the reasons that people have for favoring one position or the other. We have candidly taken the path that the country has always seen us traverse. It is essential for those taking short cuts to admit it frankly, as well.

* Paramilitary, Trafficker Links Viewed

53002100z Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
16 Apr 89 p 4A

[Commentary by Enrique Santos Calderon: "The Labyrinth of the Hired Assassin System"]

[Text] One need only be out of the country for 2 weeks to become dissociated from the precipitous, violent pace of events in Colombia: dissociated, disconcerted, and disinformed, because one realizes the incredible number of incidents, as strange as they are chilling, that manage to occur within such a short period.

This is the impression I have every time I leave this hallucinatory reality (which does not seem so great when one experiences it day after day). It is the same thing I experienced when, upon returning from Paraguay and Argentina (two countries in a state of intense, but peaceful ferment), I started reviewing the news of the previous few days.

Three drunken policemen kill three M-19 leaders to steal 100,000 pesos from them. ELN [Army of National Liberation] blows up an army convoy, killing 10 soldiers. A week later it murders a captain and shoots a retired major as he is playing soccer in front of hundreds of people. The industrialists' president visits the Casa Verde [name given to M-19's headquarters] to meet with the head of the guerrillas. A colonel is caught with 400 (!) kg of coca. Enormous coca laboratories are dismantled after pitched battles between traffickers and police.

But perhaps the most disconcerting aspect (the foregoing is to some extent part of a macabre daily routine) is the disclosures concerning the labyrinthal underworld of the hired assassin system: the discovery of common graves filled with its victims in various parts of the country; its training schools, where British and Israeli experts give courses; its picturesque country estates converted into horrifying torture centers....

All this is shocking, even for those of us who presume ourselves to be journalists well informed on the subject. What has come to light during recent weeks shows a more vast and intricate hired assassin organization than anyone would have imagined. Its national ramifications, its financing and operational methods, its internal structure, and its paramilitary connections reveal the presence of a veritable secret army of the drug traffic.

The reports and organizational charts published in the press, based on state security corps investigations, afford a better understanding of this organization's devious complexity. The document in the magazine SEMANA, explaining clearly how and when that "romance that would end in marriage" occurred between drug traffickers and self-defense groups engaged exclusively in confronting the guerrillas, seemed especially interesting to me.

A marriage of economic convenience and coinciding interests, nurtured by a guerrilla movement whose dedication to kidnapping and extortion cemented a common desire for security among old and new rural property owners. An alliance which, as was to be expected, ended up being financed and controlled by the new ones: the rich and hard partners in the marriage.

Its initial goal to protect the agrarian community from extortion and kidnapping is unquestionably shared by honest landowners subjected for many years to this implacable guerrilla scourge. And one can understand why. Hence the considerable base of social support that the trafficker-paramilitary group has had available in Magdalena Media, Bajo Cauca, or Alto Sinu.

But, as was proven later, this was not the only thing involved. As SEMANA notes in detail the organization's goals also include those of preparing people to protect coca production areas, to defend processing laboratories, and to attack members of the legal left and spokesmen for the state, the parties, or the society in general who are opposed to the drug traffic.

General Maza Marquez has made a clearcut summary of this complicated phenomenon: "The paramilitary groups, as we know them in Colombia today, are the particular interpretation that the drug traffic has made of the self-defense movement."

And the government must be credited for the way in which it has finally decided to deal with the problem. The recent discoveries and dismantlings are concrete results, reflecting a determined political will, an affirmation of the state's force and of its capacity to investigate, take action, and respond to that other trafficker-fascist subversion.

Barco must be credited for his personal concern for investigating and clarifying any military participation in criminal activities of this type. All this restores confidence to the citizens, telling them that there is still an authority in existence, that the law can penetrate powerful labyrinths of illegality, that, regardless of how much it is harassed by fire from the left and right, a democracy knows how to defend itself, and that, where there is a will there is a way.

Paraguay

Presidents in Country for Rodriguez Inauguration

Argentina's Alfonsin Arrives

PY1505121589 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1140 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by Tony Leon from Asuncion International Airport]

[Excerpt] Arsenio Basualdo, president of Asuncion's City Council, and Colonel Jose Luis Alder, the mayor of Asuncion, are now handing Argentine President Raul Alfonsin the keys of the city.

This is a significant gesture in the ceremony in which the Paraguayan authorities are welcoming President Alfonsin.

At this moment President Alfonsin and Andres Rogriguez are now reviewing the troops that are on parade here at the airport.

The two presidents are now going to greet the personalities here at the airport. [passage omitted]

Brazil's Sarney Participates

PY1505121289 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1158 GMT 15 May 89

[Report by Tony Leon from Asuncion International Airport]

[Excerpt] Brazilian President Jose Sarney has now descended from the airplane and is being greeted by Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez.

They are accelerating this part of the ceremony taking into account the schedule. We can see the members of Sarney's delegation, who are lining up beside the Boeing 737 of the Brazilian Airport.

We are now listening to the Brazilian National anthem. [passage omitted]

Chile's Economy Minister Here

PY1505124289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 6

[Excerpt] "Chile is closely following Paraguay's democratic process." This was said yesterday by Chilean Economy Minister Pablo Baraona Urzua just after he arrived in the country to participate in our country's independence ceremonies. The minister also said that "the Chilean economic crisis has been overcome." [passage omitted]

Taiwanese Official Arrives

PY1505125889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 8

[Excerpt] In remarks to this newspaper, Shi Chi-yang, the Republic of China's vice foreign minister, stated that "agrarian reform in a gigantic task, it is not merely the redistribution of land." He also stated that there is the possibility that Chinese industrialists and traders may participate in the development of our economy. The high-ranking official arrived yesterday to participate in the presidential inaugural ceremonies. [passage omitted]

Bolivia's Abecia Participates

PY1505131389 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 10

[Excerpt] Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia Baldivieso has stated that Bolivia can offer oil and gas to our country and that it is interested in various Paraguayan products. Abecia is in our country to participate in the ceremonies of President Andres Rodriguez' assumption of the presidency. He also stated that the two countries must strengthen trade relations, which "have not been very fluid." [passage omitted]

Peruvian Foreign Minister Visits

PY1505131189 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 4

[Excerpts] Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox upon arriving to our country to attend President Andres Rodriguez' inauguration said: "The Peruvian foreign minister is visiting Paraguay on this occasion to pay homage to Paraguay and to show Peru's hopes at the process, and its respect for the Paraguayan people's expression of sovereignty at the ballot box."

The foreign minister made brief comments on the reasons for his presence in the country, the situation of his country, and Peru's position regarding the election in Panama. [passage omitted]

Regarding Peru's position on Panama, Larco Cox rejected the possibility of a U.S. armed intervention, stressing the need of OAS intervention through the secretary general either to sponsor new elections or the calling of a constitutional assembly.

Spanish Delegation Arrives

PY1505140689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 5

[Excerpt] "The Spanish Government is willing to strengthen" its economic and political ties with the new Paraguayan Government, because the current political situation permits it. This was said by Virgilio Zapatero Gomez, minister of Relations With Parliament and Secretariat of Government and chief of the official Spanish mission that will participate in the ceremonies of the assumption of President Andres Rodriguez. [passage omitted]

Ecuadoran Official Here

PY1505130589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 6

[Excerpts] Ecuadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Aleman Salvador has said that the Latin American foreign debt problem should be given a political solution despite the fact that it is an economic problem. [passage omitted]

Aleman Salvador, who arrived in Asuncion on 14 May, said he was coming "on instructions from President Rodrigo Borja to represent the Ecuadoran Government at the inauguration of President Rodriguez. This is how the Ecuadorean people want to share this civic ceremony, in a nation that is so fraternal and dear to us."

Asked about the Ecuadoran position on the heated Panamanian situation (where there are concrete possibilities of a U.S. military intervention to oust Noriega), Aleman Salvador said that his country "advocates respect for the will of the majority of the Panamanian people, which was freely expressed through the ballot boxes. We are also sure that our desire and our support for democracy in Panama in no way will affect the principle of nonintervention."

Concerning the threat of military intervention, he said: "We hope it will not happen. I am sure that the United States does not want that. On the contrary, as far as I know, the United States is seeking a consensus with the Latin American countries, in order to find an opening, a solution that will basically respect the will of the Panamanian people." [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Speaks at Ceremony

PY1505150989 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1308 GMT 15 May 89

[Speech by President Andres Rodriguez during inauguration ceremony at Congress building in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Honorable congress. Your excellencies the president of the Argentine Republic, Raul Alfonsin; the president of the Federal Republic of Brazil, Jose Sarney, and the president of the Uruguayan Republic, Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Your excellencies:

Almost 450 years ago, a history of adventure, ambition, courage, love, boldness, and generosity began to be written on a quiet bay, at this precise place on the banks of a thousand-year-old river. It was a history that was also marked by confrontation and war. It was the foundation of Asuncion, which, in the warm verses of a fellow countryman, has been the birthplace of freedom in the Americas and the mother of cities, the short-lived, jungle-based capital of the boasting giant province of the Indias.

Asuncion was the vital core of a civilizing crusade, which, like all the works of men, included right as well as wrong. It is true, however, that Asuncion has been both respected and admired by the continent because of its uncompromising spirit and its will to survive.

Asuncion has not had the privilege of other fortunate sister cities, whose georgraphical location opened the path toward prosperity. In its modest and suffering environment, Asuncion has given birth to the admirable Paraguayan people, who have now taken a break in their long and painstaking life to recall its national independence to look toward the future with faith and optimism.

I have just proclaimed an oath that will not be broken, regardless of the reason. [applause]

I will have to account for this oath before the master of the universe and before the strict tribunal of men. [applause]

Consequenlty, you can imagine the emotion that fills my spirit. I am a prisoner, to my own happiness, of divine and human law. [applause]

I proclaim myself as the obedient servant of my fellow countrymen, so that we may all preserve our freedom in a republican system of authentic and creative democracy. [applause]

My spirit is even more moved by the fact that this ceremony has distinguished and exceptional withnesses: The excellencies the presidents of the Argentine Republic, of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay [applause], who, in an unprecedented action which deeply honors our country, have attended this ceremony to give it international significance. The entire Paraguayan nation is deeply grateful for this gesture. [applause]

Your presence, your excellencies and presidents, is the jubilant voice of the Americas, which is joining our hope. I can assure you that your significant and transcendental participation in this ceremony will not be for naught. [applause]

I am also thankful for the stimulating and distinguished presence of the ministers of foreign affaris and of Mrs Dorothy Bush Lablond, who is the personal representative of His Excellency the President of the United States. [applause]

I am also thankful for the presence of the honorable diplomatic corps. [applause]

Honorable congress: On 3 February 1989, the Armed Forces under my command, closed a political process to return to our fatherland the main attributes of a prestigious and honorable [words indistinct]. [applause]

The important thing is not who did it. The important thing for the future is the fact that it has already been done forever, because the Paraguayan people [applause]...because the Paraguayan people have recovered their confidence in themselves, they have shown their ability to correct mistakes, and they have shown their strong desire to live in peace and democracy. [applause]

The nation has reclaimed its right to a dignified life and has taken its initial steps to implement the civility it has won as price of the struggle. [applause]

It will be your honorable duty during the present congressional year to discuss with exemplary dignity the approval of laws to consolidate the goals of the 3 Febrary proclamation. [applause]

A broad panorama opens in front of you. The nation has its eyes on you, on your capacity, your patriotism, your wisdom and political experience, your sense of justice, your independence and dignity. The nation needs the cooperation of all of its children to occupy the position of honor it deserves according to the merits earned by our heroic ancestors.

America and the world have their eyes on us. Let us faithfully follow the ideals of our founding fathers.

Your excellencies, with immense gratitude we thank you for the great honor of your visit.

Honorable congress, let us fulfill our commitments. Let us pray each day to be illuminated so we can gather enough strength and wisdom to put our beloved country on the path of its great destiny. [applause]

Honorable congressmen, in accordance to Article 130 of our Constitution, I declare your congressional legislative session opened. Thank you. [applause]

Swears In New Cabinet

PY1505144589 Asuncion Red Nacional de Television in Spanish 1346 GMT 15 May 89

[President General Andres Rodriguez swearing in Cabinet at the Palacio de los Lopez in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpt] Messrs Division General Orlando Machuca Vargas [interior minister], Professor Dr Luis Maria Argana [foreign minister], Professor Engineer Enzo Debernardi [finance minister], Professor Dr Dionisio Gonzalez Torres [education minister], Agricultural Engineer Hernando Bertoni [agriculture minister], Brigade General Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz, retired [public works and communications minister], Division General Adolfo Samaniego, retired [defense minister], Dr Juan Manuel Cano Melgarejo [public health minister], Professor Dr Alexis Frutos Vaesken [labor and justice minister], Mr Antonio Zucolillo Moscarda [industry and commerce minister], and Professor Dr Juan Ramon Chaves [minister without portfolio]:

Before God and the Fatherland, do you swear to discharge with loyalty and patriotism the posts of executive branch ministers that the government entrusts to you, and of state councillors that the National Constitution invests in you, and to act in accordance with what the Constitution and laws provide?

Should you not do so, God and the Fatherland will call you to account. [applause]

In the city of Asuncion, Republic of Paraguay, 15 May 1989. [passage omitted]

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Sends Message to People

PY1205152289 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 12 May 89 p 1

[Message to the Paraguayan people from Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti on the occasion of his upcoming visit to Paraguay for the inauguration of president-elect Andres Rodriguez]

[Text] On 15 May we will be in Asuncion for the inauguration of the new Paraguayan Government. For us it is very important to accompany this democratic transition process that Paraguay has begun under such positive auspices.

This experience, which we have undergone in our own country, has taught us that every one should follow his own path in keeping with his own needs, and with his own principles. No one has recipes to offer or examples to give. The inspiration for this quest for a transition should feed on a spirit of reconciliation and on the necessary democratic moderation. This is an essential condition with which dialogue can become, not a permanent threat for a democratic transition, but an instrument of stability and order.

We have followed the Paraguayan elections with much hope, just as we harbor hopes about the inauguration of the new government and congress. This is why we will be there, to accompany the process, to convey our solidarity, and to tell the entire Paraguayan people that Uruguay is closer than ever, that Uruguay is respectfully watching the events in Paraguay, that it has great hope, and that it wants to be as close as possible to encourage this ship that has now set sail, so that it may successfully reach its destination. We are sure that it will succeed.

Meets Opposition; Talks To Press

PY1505184789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 89 p 6,7

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Yesterday Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti met with Paraguayan opposition leaders at Hotel Excelsior in Asuncion. Domingo Laino at the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party]; Fernando Vera of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF]; Jorge Dario Cristaldo, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]; and Ricardo Buman, Humanist Party [PH] presidential candidate in the 1 May presidential elections attended the meeting.

President Sanguinetti held a long and informal chat with the press at the conclusion of the meeting. "We are very happy with developments in Paraguay, a country with which we are even phonetically close," Sanguinetti said. Things have changed in the country: the press can work freely, there has been an election and political parties had the opportunity to participate. Maybe there are other things to be reformed but that is something for Paraguayans to do."

Sanguinetti said the change was epitomized by the arrival in our country of Presidents Alfonsin, Sarney, "and even me because I am talking with you now."

Sanguinetti said that democracy is not solely the responsibility of the government. The opposition must participate "because you cannot have democracy without moderation," the president added.

Asked if his visit to the country could be thought of as one of political support and a commitment to supervise the current process, Sanguinetti said he is here to support the recent election and to strengthen the spirit of integration between the two countries.

Regarding the meeting with "his friend Laino," Sanguinetti said it was very constructive, adding that we exchanged opinions because we are ending our transition toward democracy while here you are beginning one. We hope to help with our experiences," Sanguinetti said.

Domingo Laino said the meeting included various topics such as human rights. "We also talked about military and political issues, and the necessary flexibility the government and the opposition alike must show. The president urged us to show maturity to advance in the democratization process because it is not only the responsibility of the government. The opposition is also responsible."

Asked about the role the opposition must play in the process, Laino said: Our role is to see that democracy is real, not merely a "front."

Qualifies Panama's Sovereignty

PY1505135689 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 May 89 p 13

[Excerpts] Yesterday Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti met with Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin (PLRA), Fernando Vera (PRF), Jorge Dario Cristaldo (PDC), and Ricardo Buman (PH) here in Asuncion. [passage omitted]

Regarding Panama, Sanguinetti said that the Panamanian issue "is the number one concern in the world today." Sanguinetti added that in Panama the main concern is democracy and peace "because what happened was really dramatic, the fraud has really distorted the will of the electorate."

Asked about the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, Sanguinetti said the principle contemplates the respect for the sovereignty of nations and their self-determination, but "the principle is, of course, not applicable when self-determination is questioned."

Alfonsin, Sarney, Sanguinetti Speak on Visit

PY1505222189 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 May 89 p 12

[Text] During a meeting with Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin expressed their great desire for integration and referred to the task that lies ahead of the Paraguayan Government to democratize the country.

After the four chiefs of state met at General Andres Rodriguez' office in Government House at noon today, Brazilian President Jose Sarney said: "I would like to take advantage of this occasion once again to express to the Paraguayan people and government the friendship of the Brazilian people. I am here representing not only Brazil but an entire people that supports the sister nation Paraguay. Our two countries share a common future, common problems, and the same hopes."

Sarney added: "We are certain that democracy will be realized in Paraguay. Today we have celebrated an event that not only belongs to Paraguay but to all of Latin America."

The three visiting presidents posed beside Rodriguez and members of his family for several minutes at the Paraguayan president's office. It was a very cordial moment, during which the presidents exchanged expressions of goodwill.

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin said: "This is the beginning of a democratic transition which—I am certain—will conclude successfully."

Regarding Paraguay's incorporation into the Group of Three (Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay) he said, "I think it is feasible."

Alfonsin said that he came to Asuncion because he wanted to "greet the president on his inauguration and the Paraguayan people on the occasion of this difficult transition phase, which my colleague is now starting and which I am now concluding."

Regarding the Argentine elections, Alfonsin confirmed the victory of Peronist candidate Menem and proclaimed that "democracy will continue in Argentina. Our party (the Radical Civic Union) will continue to strive for the well-being of our country." Regarding the rest of his presidential term, which ends next December, Alfonsin asserted that he "will continue working hard for the Latin American integration because we believe that open commerce is the right answer to our problems."

Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Vicente Fialho said he knew nothing about a possible Paraguayan proposal to review the Itaipu Treaty.

After the end of the meeting with President Andres Rodriguez and his Argentine and Brazilian counterparts, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti said that "we are very happy with the ceremonies we have attended today. As you know, we have come to voice our support and happiness for the great democratic opening in Paraguay."

Sanguinetti added that "today's ceremonies, the swearing-in of the president, and his speech, mark the beginning of this transition, of this opening that today is being celebrated by Paraguay and all Latin America."

He also said: "We have come to support the great democratic opening in Paraguay and to be with President Rodriguez on his inauguration. I believe this is a great day. It has great significance for Paraguay's history and for Latin American history. It is a great event, and it is the motive of our visit."

Sanguinetti then said: "Naturally, whenever there are talks, concerns and problems are discussed.... We have the problem in Panama, which is a matter of concern to everyone now. We have the integration problems, the foreign debt problems, and so forth—all the subjects that are usually on the agenda of any Latin American president today."

Sanguinetti asserted that the foreign debt problem had not been the main issue of the meeting but asserted that the main issue "is democracy, and this is what we must all try to preserve."

Foreign Ministers Meet To Discuss Panama

PY1505215689 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2115 GMT 15 May 89

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana made the following remarks following a meeting today at the Yacht Club by four presidents and seven foreign ministers who are visiting Paraguay.

[Begin recording] [Argana] It was very interesting. You are right in calling it a working lunch, because the foreign ministers took this occasion to touch on our positions on the Panamanian issue. There is a Venezuelan proposal and a Peruvian proposal. This was practically a minisummit of foreign ministers, because six South American foreign ministers were here.

We virtually reached an agreement on a line of behavior which is basically founded on respect for the people's right to self-determination, noninterference, the Panamanian people's right to choose its destiny, and compliance with the Carter-Torrijos treaties.

[Reporter] Do you mean that you will all speak with a single voice....

[Argana, interrupting] No, we will not go that far, because six of us were present here and there are many more countries. Excuse me, I have to go.

[Reporter] Minister, what criterion will then be followed regarding the Panamanian right to self-determination?

[Argana] The right to self-determination will be respected. It has to be respected. [end recording]

As can be seen, the Panamanian issue was at the center of the meeting of the foreign ministers who were in our country today.

Venezuela

President on Panamanian, Argentine Elections

PA1505230889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 May 89

[Report on statements by President Carlos Andres Perez during the "We, Venezuela" television program on 15 May—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Perez] "We hope that the Panamanian people and the Panama Defense Forces will agree that the right path was determined by the 7 May elections. This is the crux of the problem. We are very concerned because of the presence of U.S. forces in Panama. It would be terrifying, inconceivable, intolerable, and unacceptable to have an armed intervention in Panama. In the same fashion, it is intolerable and unacceptable to pretend not to recognize the results of the Panamanian people's elections. This is a real tragedy, and we must all struggle to find a negotiated solution to this problem."

The president also referred to yesterday's Argentine elections, praising the Argentine people's maturity in voting peacefully to elect the Peronist—or Justicialist—candidate.

[Perez] "I congratulated the winner, [Justicialist Popular Unity Front Presidential Candidate Carlos] Menem. I expect to have cordial and constructive relations with him so we can continue Latin American integration, which is our objective."

Suriname

Lachmon: Netherlands 'Disappointed' Nation

FL1505180789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Holland's attitude in relation to the development aid and the situation in east Suriname are, according to Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon, the reasons why the government cannot carry out its task effectively. Lachmon, who spoke during a public meeting of the assembly, said that Holland has disappointed the Front [for Democracy and Development] government by not giving the money. He is against taking the matter before the international court because this will create a greater gap between Holland and Suriname. Lachmon stated that he is still in favor of dialogue with Holland.

Assembly Chairman Lachmon Views 5 May Strike

FL1505183789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 May 89

[Text] Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon has termed the 1-day protest strike called by the four trade union federations as a renewed attempt to obtain parliamentary powers without (?there being] an election. Lachmon said this during an assembly meeting that [word indistinct] the actual political division was on the agenda.

According to Lachmon, the trade union federations had before the election already made their attempt to be a parliamentary power. In a [words indistinct] he named the proposals by the trade union movement and [words indistinct] and to top delivery [word indistinct]. Their politicians stated that the trade union movement wanted to receive a number of seats so that after the election they would be in the majority in the assembly.

With the help of Henck Arron, Willy Soemita, Army Commander Bouterse, and I, myself, these plans were defeated, said Lachmon. The 1-day protest strike by trade union movements 2 weeks ago is condemned by all the political parties in the National Assembly.

Official Calls for New Talks on Democracy

FL1105141289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Suriname's coalition government leader (Rofas Noordmeer) says he wants new talks on a peaceful transition to democracy. He says the Army's position in relation to the country's civilian authority needs to be clarified referring to remarks by Army leaders. He said they were behaving like an armed political party. Mr (Noordmeer) said the government should not underestimate the military's position.